1989 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

HNHR, Monterey Co. Calif

11 June 1700. Alerted by Janis and Elizabeth, I came down to Blompond, where they report lots of AW activity, including possibly babies. In the big Valley Oak upon arrival was a ♀NOBA. She was joined(?) by a 2nd bird. I walked up to the Valley Oak up in ~~back~~ between the 1st & 2nd canyons. Nothing there, but as I was walking back there was a fight and 2 birds chased off a 3rd. One of the 2 chased the intruder over to the 2nd canyon. The other stayed but when I tried to ID her she took off for the first canyon. Now I'm back watching near the pond for a bit.

1715. Now back in the tree by the pond: ① ♂ MV-LB/MV #1525 from Central Canyon. Makes sense that it would be these birds.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Hastings Reservation

27 April 900. Up at ARF, Too where there is a fair amount of activity along with 5+ birds in the tall VO by the granaries. Watching for a couple of minutes.

① ♀ R-W/DB- M/LG # 1793 with a ratio on her! (This is one of the birds caught in the Sch Hill powerstr.)

② ♂ NOBA.

930. Leaving.

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Chongo

HNHR

28 May 1300. Set up, trying to catch ♂NOBA helper.

1315. ① ♀ LB/ #1607.

1319. In tree: ♀1607 and (I'm pretty sure) an ub ♀!

1320. At nest: ② ♂ Blk-Red/M #1110.

1323. Without a doubt there is a ♀NOBA here.

1348. ③ ♀ M/Or. #1606.

1410. Got one - a ♂. I think there's a ♀ too, so I'll leave things up and go for her tomorrow. ♂ is now #1739.

29 May 1550. Here for that ♀NOBA, who I'm pretty sure is here.

1750. After 2 hrs I've seen ♂1110, ♀♀1606 & 1607, and the bird I banded yesterday, ♂1739 (who fed several times). No sign of ♂1265 nor of the NOBA♀ I thought I saw yesterday. I guess I have to assume she doesn't exist, and that the ub. bird I saw yesterday was a ♂ (later caught and turned into ♂1739).

1990

8 January 1000. Counted stores: 498. Granary is not particularly full, but I doubt they have a capacity over 1000, as many of the major limbs here are on the ground.

14 April 1430. In blind watching. Stores are depleted or very nearly so.

1515. A bird was calling from down the hill a few minutes ago, but that's about it.

26 April 1615. 3 birds here in the granary, including ♂ M LB/Red ???
This would seem to be an excellent time to come census tomorrow.

27 April 1545. Watching from blind. 1615 ① ♂ Or/M Or-Lo/Or (excellent look).
This is ♂1665 from Plaque! This means that the bird I saw

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo HNHR

(27 April) yesterday (♂ M LB/Red) was most likely ♂1733 from Plaque.

1620. ♂ R-Or(n)/Wh M/ Mauve #1530, also from Plaque.

1625. ♀ LB/Bk-LB LB-Bk/M #1607. Someone who belongs here!

1643. ♂ Wh-Blk/M Or/ #1729, also from Plaque

1730. Well, looks like new ♂♂ here, along with 1 (or both?) of the old ♀♀.

6 May 1520. Flushed a bird from here, but noone in any of the obvious holes. In fact, I went ahead and checked the 2 holes in the granary; the upper one is fine; the lower one had some evidence of mouse residency but I cleaned it out and it's fine now too.

16 May ~~1615~~ 915. No one in any holes here; no obvious activity here at all, in fact.

18 May 1300. Bird in last year's hole: 3 eggs, several days incubated!

22 May 930. Still 3 eggs, warm.

4 June 930. Bled the 3 babies, who look fine.

15 June 1800. Banded the 3 babies.

17 June *Group Update*

Gone are

♀1606. Last seen 6 Nov '89 (Donna), apparently gone by 20 Nov. when Buckeye ♀♀ appeared to be invading

→ D.A. 13 Nov '89 ± 2 wks.

♂1110. Last seen 21 Feb (Mike). Gone by 26 April, by which time the Plaque ♂♂ had moved in → D.A. 24 March ± 1 month

♂♂ 1739, 1756, 1758, 1759. All here in late Sept '89, but gone by 20 Nov. → D.A. 25 Oct '89 ± 1 month.

New here are

♂♂ 1530, 1665, & 1729. All moved here from Plaque,

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Melanerpes formicivorus

HNHR

Chongo Nest Record

18 May 1300 — 3 eggs, incubated

22 May 930 — " "

4 June 930 — Bled 3 babies

	1864 ① Yellow	1865 ② Dorsum	1866 ③
4 June 930	52.1 (23)	51.3 (22)	48.1 (20)
15 June 1800	83.1 (79)	82.3 (76)	78.8 (71)

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Chongo HNHR

(17 June) sometime between ~mid Feb (when Mike saw some of them back at Plague) and 26 April (when I saw them at Chongo). → Moved 15 March ± 1 month. I saw ♂1733 here as well in April, but he apparently moved on or died as he hasn't been seen here since.

Update on the above: ♂1729 and ♂1733 have been back at Plague occasionally, at least, see my notes. Also ♂1530 was seen at Lower Haystack on 12 April, so perhaps they didn't move 'till slightly later? Say 1 April ± 2 wks?

21 October *Group Update*

Appears to be abandoned! ♂♂1530, 1665, & 1729 are at Plague, as is (apparently) j1865.

*Abandoned ~ ~~15 July ± 2 wks~~. 1 Aug ± 2 wks (others moved to Plague)

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Buckeye HNHR

15 April ♀1475, ♀1478, and maybe even ♀1624 up at The School Hill power struggle today.

26 April 1600. 4 eggs, fairly fresh, in a hole in the granary along with a ♀ incubating.

4 May Hatched today (MTS)

9 June Definitely acorns left here. Also, there may have been a bird in the nesthole (a 2nd nest? Not too likely, but certainly possible).

15 June ~~2000~~ 1900. Bird in last year's hole. This could be a 2nd nest.

16 June ~~1950~~ 530. No - apparently just roosting there?

17 June *Group update*

Some birds to delete:

♀1477, 1625. Last seen 6 Dec '89, gone by 20 Jan. → DA. 28 Dec ± 3 wks.

♂1003. Last seen 20 Jan, gone by 6 March → DA 13 Feb ± 3 wks

♀1696, ♀1697, ♂1399, ♂1476. All here in March (all but ♀1697 caught on 20 March; ♀1697 seen on 6 March). Gone by around nesting (~20 April) → D.A. 1 April ± 2 wks

♀1475. Last seen here 20 March (caught); at the Sch Hill power struggle on 15 April → D.A. 1 April ± 2 wks.

20 October ♀1475. At Central Canyon, moved ~1 ~~April~~ June ± ~~2 wks~~ 1 month.

♀1626. Joined ♀1475 at Cecn, moved ~1 Aug ± 1 month.

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Buckeye Nest Record HNHR

26 April 1600		4 eggs, almost but not quite fresh.
4 May (MTS)		2 hatchlings, 2 infertile eggs.
25 May 1010		2 babies, banded & bled
	(1) 1830	(2) 1831
25 May 1016	84.8 (73)	75.2 (65)

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Buckeye Annex HNHR

9 June 1415. ♀ in The hole here!

1745. Bird in hole again!. Climbed and checked it: empty. But I'd be surprised if something doesn't happen here shortly.

The bird flushed the opposite direction from Buckeye proper, by the way, so I bet this is a separate group.

15 June 1900. 4 birds in the upper of the 2 holes! Checked it: empty. Set ambushes at both holes.

16 June 430. Got 2 NOBAs (♂, ♀); neither was in breeding condition nor does either hole have eggs. Both are probable 1st yr birds. So who are those other birds that didn't roost here? (only 2 birds came back and I got them both).

For now I will credit this group with a resident pair as of May 0th.

1989 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque HNHR

30 March 2000. I set ambushes in 2 holes in the 2° tree, catching noone in the nest hole and only ♂1529 in the high hole. Bummer.

2 April 1200. ⊙♂ 0-1 #1665 here in tree.

3 April 530. 2 birds roosted in the high hole in the 2° tree but I only caught 1: ♂1665. He was bled and released.
The others turned out to be roosting in a new hole low in the limb that stretches over the road toward the Pumphouse.

11 April 815. Saw ♂ LA/DB-WhLn #1403 sitting up here along the fenceline near MacRoberts.
820. ♂ flew back toward Plaque
821. Now an ub ♀ in the same tree (near MacRoberts)!
855. Up in the same tree briefly was ♀ M Or-DB/Red #1560 from Y.
912. Another ub ♀ here checking things out.

11 May 1800. Finally caught ♀973, ambushing her at the nest. So we now have blood from the whole group.

15 May Something up here this morning - power struggle activity. At 1100 I watched for a bit. Saw ①♂ M/R-Mv #1529. Over by the Griffin's are ②♂ Or-Wh(n)/Wh #1530 plus 2 other ♂♂.
Not sure what's up here!

♀1350 from KNOLL

1112. In one of the locusts by Griffin's, calling and prompting at least some of the raquet is ♀ Blk-BP(n)/Mv-Dg #1350 from Knoll. This is a breeder - what's she doing here?
1116. Now ♂ Blk-Yel/Or #521 here by Griffin's. At least he's not the problem.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Plaque HNHR

8 January 1100. Counted stores: 1° tree: 4000
2° tree: 312
Tel pole: 110
} 4422.

The granary is pretty darn full here; capacity is under 5000, at any rate.

12 April 1106. ♂1530 seen intruding up at Lower Haystack.

26 April ♂1733 seen at Chongo; see Chongo notes for 27 April.

27 April ♂1665 seen at Chongo. ♂1530 also at Chongo, as well as ♂1729.

30 April Lots of chasing here today. Stanback watched and found ♂1403 and ♂1733 both have chasing out ♂ intruders. Wonder what will happen, given that most of the ♂♂ (all but ♂1403) are possibly abandoning for Chongo?

1 June Plenty of acorns still here. Saw ♀ (Red/DB) #973 and ♂ Or/(W) #1729 in the granary in passing.

17 June *Group update*

♂♂ 1530, 1665, & 1729 moved to Chongo; see Chongo notes. Probably moved in early April.

♀1731. Last seen 18 Nov '89, gone by 16 Dec → D.A. 1 Dec ± 2 wks

♀1730, ♂1529. Last seen 15 Feb; no sign of them this spring, since ~30 April → D.A 22 March ± 1 month.

♂1403. Has tentatively "budded" to Plaque Annex, say about 15 May. Will no doubt return shortly.

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Plaque Annex HNHR

22 January A lone bird's been roosting in a small tree near here (going up toward Buckeye) for several days, at least. Tonight I tried to catch him/her, but he escaped from the net.

9 June Mike showed me a hole up here where a ♀NOBA and ♂1403 from Plaque have been going into; apparently this group does exist (tenuously at least) and again is a "budding off" of Plaque.

1400. Opened the hole, which is in good shape but empty. Set an ambush on the chance I can nab the ♀ this evening.

21 October *Group Update*

No sign of life up here; abandoned ~ 1 July ± 2 wks.

1989
1990

Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

	Y	HNHR
11 April	855. ♀1560 up in a tree along the fenceline by MacRoberts briefly	

1990

8 January 1100. These birds have drilled a good number of holes in the locust by the barn (at the SE corner, with box #354). Like most locusts, it's difficult to count stores, since there's a lot of space between some of the bark and the wood where lots of extra acorns can hide unseen. In any case, I counted 353 acorns* and will guess that there are on the order of 700 holes in the tree already. These birds have done well replacing the old (locust) granary, which fell some time ago and is now, of course, completely gone.

*there may be quite a few more than this, ~~however~~, but I think there ~~are pretty~~ probably <500.

15 April ♀1560 at School Hill power struggle this morning. Today (or 16 April?) Stanback cleared out a starling nest from the locust nest hole over by the barn.

17 June *Cerony Update*

♀1561. Last seen 14 March, gone by 14 April ~D.A. 29 Mar ± 2w. This bird may have been radiotracked, however, so there may be more information on her than this.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Knoll HNHR

8 January 1130. Counted stores here: 1220. These birds have done a fine job of renovating the Valley Oak granary just up the Wickerhill trickle from the Y. However, it's hard to give an estimate for the capacity, as many acorns are ~~crammed~~ wedged into crevices of the bark rather than in bonifide storage holes. My guess is that it's ~75% full and could perhaps hold about 1600 acorns if they were lucky.

31 March 815. Watching here. 813 ♂ ♀ MV/(N) LG-Yel/M #1445 in VO granary. Flew out with acorn after apparently giving a couple of intermittant garricks (!)

835. 2 birds in granary chasing off a ground squirrel: ♀1445 and ② ♂ Red/Green? #1301.

910. 2nd ♀: ③ ♀ or / M / Blk-Wh(n) #1604.

935. This seems to be about it, at least for today. Birds are 1° eating acorns and catkins.

15 April ♀1445 at School Hill power struggle this morning.

12 May 1345. Cleared out a starling nest with 4 babies about to fledge from the dead limb sticking out toward 1500 in the big sycamore.

23 May 1730. Bird flushed from the canyon hole! No sounds from inside, at least.

24 May 730. Checked the hole: 3 eggs, incubated.

28 May MTS checked this morning: not hatched yet (but didn't open hole)

29 May MTS checked: nest failed! One cold egg in nest. What happened?

4 June No stored acorns remaining here.

17 June *Group Update*

♀1350, 1605. Last seen 2 Jan '90, gone by 31 March

→ D.A. 15 Feb ± 1 month.

1989
1990

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Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 HNHR

4 June Sat around for a bit here this afternoon; didn't see much. I think that they're out of acorns here, however.

7 June 1010. Watching from blind. They do appear to be out of acorns here.

1100. In 1° tree: ① ♂ Blue/Red-Or(N) #~~[illegible]~~ 1608 and ② ♀ Wh-Or(Yel) #1609.

1110. Things are pretty slow here, but at least these 2 birds are around, if not doing very much. Leaving. Little sign of a nest or of ♀1610.

1 August 1640. Still no acorns here.

As for the number of storage holes, I didn't count them but I can see no major blocks of new holes here since my counts 10 years ago. My guess is that the 2° tree does have some additional holes (300? more, maybe), but I do not see much potential for a big gain over my old counts here.

1990

8 January 1145. Counted stores: Main tree: 550 } 787.
2° tree: 237 }

There's something wrong here: the Main granary isn't more than 20-25% full, if that. What's up here? There are so few acorns stored that I can't even really take a stab at the capacity here.

5 April ♀1609 seen at Weate power struggle; see notes.

12 April 925. ① ♂ LB/ #1608 in fight with scrub jay on lower sap site, where he was flycatching.

930. ② ♀ /Yel #1609 here also.

940. No sign of anyone else! Birds flycatching, eating catkins,

Melanerpes formicivorus

1500 HNHR

28 April 1040. ♀ wh-Or/wh #1609 in granary.

1 June 1650. Still no sign of a nest; also, birds appear to be out of stores here.

5 June ♂1608 is up at School Hill West!

17 June *Group Update*

♂1608. Last seen here 12 April, at SHWest by ~ 30 April (my notes) → Moved to SHWest 22 April ± 1 week.

Duane reports a new ♂NOBA here as of ~ 15 June; we'll say he moved here 15 May ± 1 Mo. This would finally make ♀1609 a breeder here.

26 September 1930. Ambushed at the traditional hole tonight, nabbing the ♂NOBA, who is now ♂1901 (I think).

1989
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Melanerpes formicivorus

1800.

HNHR

21 April 1830. Noone in any holes here, including the new hole across the road (across and about 50m up from post 1980 in a Valley Oak facing School Hill West).

12 May 930. Up at the base of Haystack-Blomquist's granary I found the body of ♀1554, a helper from 1800. She had been dead several days, but probably not much longer. Odd! I wonder what prompted her demise up here? Her band #942-15783.

♀1554 dead

3 June 1050. Set up for a shot at ♂774 at the nest.

1150. Birds now feeding: ♀787, ♂1438, the breeder ♂♂, but hard to tell them apart!

1210. Got him!

1 August 1700. Lots of stores still here: I counted 1030. As for capacity, my estimate (based on a count) was

1° tree: 2400
2° tree: 400
} 2800 ≅ 3000.

I doubt very much that their capacity is a great deal above this.

1990

8 January 1200. Counted stores: 1° tree: 2040
2° tree: 0
} 2040.

A fair number of the acorns look old, and I bet they're leftovers from last year. In any case, the 1° tree is fairly full, and I'd still put capacity in at around 3000.

12 April 945. Several birds over here, inc. a ♀ (not being guarded, apparently)

950. ♂ flew in, ♀ flew off toward Live Oak up hill behind granary (?)

1015. There to seem to be 3 birds here, but I wasn't able to get good IDs on them. Checked holes as well - keep an eye on that Live Oak!

Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 HNHR

(12 April) 1030. Leaving. Got poor looks at birds that were most likely ♂ /M # 770 and ♂ M/D-Red # 1438. ♀ here also.

2 May 1100. Opened a new hole in the Live Oak up above the granary where birds roosted last night: 1 egg!

4 May 1800. Checked the hole: now 3 eggs.

13 May 715. " " " : 5 eggs.

15 May 815. No sounds from nest, but bird in hole: presumably not hatched yet.

22 May 1145. Didn't check the hole, but baby sounds are coming from here.

1 June 1540. Set up for blood. Need ♀787 (no blood!) and ♂1438 (dried only).

1620. Got her! Also bled the 2 babies.

1650. Plenty of stored acorns remaining here, by the way.

2 June 1045. Back to give myself a chance to nab ♂1438.

♀787, ♂770 both fed.

1230. All for now. Rebleeding j1852.

4 June 1030. Going, one more time at least, for ♂1438.

1100. Got him!

9 June 1100. Banded & measured the babies.

17 June *Group Update*

♂1651. Last seen 17 Nov '89, gone by 23 Feb

→ D.A 1 Jan '90 ± 6 wks.

17 September 1600. Still lots of old acorns stored here, as well as a few new green ones.

11 November *Group Update*

j1852. Not seen after banding.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

1800 Nest Record		HNHP
2 May	1100	1 egg, fresh, marked #1
4 May	1800	3 eggs (new ones not marked)
13 May	715	5 eggs
22 May	1145	Babies OK (lid not open)
1 June	1630	Bled the 2 babies

	1851 ① LPink	1852 ② Yellow
1 June 1630	74.5 (46)	69.7 (40) (Rebleed!)
9 June 1200	84.2 (86)	87.3 (81)

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Horsetail HNHR

8 January 1215. Flushed a bird from here (according to Mark there may be 4 here) when I came to check the granary, where there are 430 stored acorns! At least half are in the 2 sections of old granary I put here many moons ago, but the remainder are in new holes, especially 1 smallish, long limb sticking out low in the tree. Wow! The birds may make this a permanent tree eventually yet!

24 March 1845. Watched roosting here; saw nothing, heard nothing.

9 June 1215. No sign of birds or stores here.

20 October Group here! 2♀♀ from ARF, TOO and a ♂ NOBA. We'll have them founding ~1 September.

1989 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Hayslack-Blomquist HNHR

3 May Watched for a nest here, 845-930. Birds were mostly up on the Hastings side, flycatching and chasing intruders. No obvious sign of a nest found, however.

12 May 945. Found an 1800 helper ♀ dead at the base of the granary here.

1000. Watching from blind. ① ♂ M or 1083.

1040. No mate-guarding by ♂1083, who's been up by himself in the granary most of the time. Not much hint of a nest either, unfortunately.

1105. Found it! It's back in the forest; ♀ flushed, no sound so I assume they got eggs.

13 May 1600. Opened the new hole: 4 opaque, incubated, warm eggs.

27 May 1200. Caught ① ♂1083 at the nest. Trying for #2 now.

1308. ② ♂1673 fed. ③ ♀1078 had fed prior to my capture of ♂1083.

1400. Giving up for now.

29 May * 1220. Back for ♂1084.

1430. It's cool and windy and nothing's going on. I give up.

30 May 1400. And again I try.

1520. Got him! Also saw ♂1085 feed.

* Note that ♂1084, a breeder feeding 15-to nestlings, had started molting already!

1 August 1730. Counted stores here: 1230. My guess is that they're at ½-⅓ capacity, which I estimate at about 3000.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Haystack-Blomquist HNHR

9 January 1200. Counted stores: 3842. The granary is pretty full; I'd put capacity at ≈4500. My count here is probably not as good as some, but I think I'm reasonably close. (If anything, I may have double-counted one limb with ~250 acorns or so).

31 March 1145. Lots of stores left here.

18 April 900. Bird flushed from a new hole in the Hastings Valley Oak roost tree.

950. Just since the last time I was here (31 March or maybe even 12 April) the limb with last year's nest hole has fallen. Rats.

19 April 1315. Opened the new hole, where once again a bird was ensconced. However, no eggs! The hole is, in fact, not quite finished, but they're obviously working on it.

26 April 1455. Bird in the new hole: checked it: very close to ready but still empty.

29 April 1340. Noone in the new hole.

1 May 1430. Bird in the new hole. Checked it: still empty, but ready to go.

4 May 1820. 3 eggs!

13 May 750. 4 eggs, incubated. Should hatch on or about 15-16 May.

29 May 1605. Set up to catch either ♀1078 or ♂1085.

1705. Light is awful. Leaving.

31 May 1430. Trying again.

1620. ♂LB-WM/LB #1673 fed.

1700. Leaving. What is going on here!??!

1 June 1405. And again.

1500. Got ♀1078!

1530. Plenty of stored acorns remaining here. Bye-bye.

2 June 920. Back for ♂1085.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Hay-Blom Nest Record

HNHR

1 May 1430	0 eggs
4 May 1820	3 eggs (FED = 2 May)
13 May 750	4 eggs, incubated
2 June 1000	Bled the 4 babies

	1855 ① Black	1856 ② Green	1857 ③ Orange	1858 ④
2 June 1000	83.8 (48)	84.3 (59)	82.7 (43)	68.0 (30)
9 June 1520				- Gone -

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Haystack-Blomquist HNHR

(2 June) 947. Got him!

1000. ~~Banded~~ Bled the 4 babies (#1855-8) for good measure.

9 June 1520. Measured & banded the 3 remaining babies, who were filthy (the whole bottom of the hole is a mess) but fine otherwise; #1858 got reduced.

17 June *Group Update*

♂1083. Last seen 14 Dec. '89, gone by 15 March
→ D.A. 1 Feb. ± 6 wks

(No) → ♂1084. Seen by Mike on 15 March, gone by nesting ~ 1 May
→ D.A. 7 April ± 3 wks. Oops! Nope: ♂1084 feeding here at the nest. Forget this!

15 July Well! Susanne saw ♂ M/DG-DB #1083 yesterday up here so I guess he's here also! Presumably he was here all the time?

17 September 1615. There are a few acorns still in the granary here, but they could all be new. If they didn't run out this summer they must have come very close to it.

1989 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack HNHR

20 January 1745. Watched roosting. Saw 7 birds go into the old cut-out hole just below the '75 Valley Oak nest tree over in the side area.

Jane reports that one additional bird roosted in the nest hole in the granary.

21 January 1730. Ambushes set at both holes.

!10 birds roosted in the old nest hole!

22 January The ambush, done early, got them all, except that 1 escaped from the bag while I was taking them out (a comparable mass of birds I have not seen in a long time!). But I got 9 - still an all-time record.

Caught were: 3♂ breeders (♂1046, ♂1146, and ♂1155), 5 ♂ helpers (♂♂1520, 1521, 1628, 1629, and 1427 - the latter thought to already have moved to Blontwo), and an u6, presumably new breeding ♀ (now ♀1679). Presumably the bird that got away was one of the 2 helper ♀♀ (1522 or 1627), neither of whom is related to the new breeding ♀ (hence I wonder if either is still here?).

The bad news is that I lost my wedding ring in the process.

1 August 1730. Lots of stored acorns still here. As for capacity, the 1° tree looks comparably packed full of holes to when I was counting years ago. The main increase here is in the 2° tree, which I counted as having 1825 ≅ 2000 storage holes. Hence, capacity is up here.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack HNHR

9 January 1130. Counted stores: Main tree: 4908 } 5553.
2° tree : 645

Granary is fairly replete but not stuffed; plus, there are some shells in holes indicating that the peak has passed and that they're already started to deplete their stores. I'd put capacity at, perhaps, 7000 or so (but not more).

31 March 1200. Lots of stores left here.

12 April 1100. All rather quiet here. Checked holes.
1107. Intruder! ♂ Red-Or(N)/Wh M / Light #1530 from Plaque. Chased out by 2-3 birds.

18 April 905. Watching for a bit.
921. 4 birds flew in, inc. ① ♂ Wh/Blk-LB #1520. ② ♂ (N)/M LB-Blk/Yel #1521.
③ ♂ Da/M #1046, plus a ♀ who is apparently being guarded. This would probably be a good group to experiment with.
935. Leaving.

23 April 1900. Came up to set ambush in the forest hole on this misty evening. Two birds were in the traditional nest hole, so I checked it, fortunately finding it empty. I set an ambush there as well for good measure.

24 April 600. Noone in the nest hole, but Markant I got 8 birds from the forest roost hole: ♀1679, ♂♂1046, 1155, 1520, 1521, 1629, ♀♀1627, and 1723. A complete route except for the helper ♂ (1724) who was missed in the Feb. census - unlike all these birds. In other words, I think we got them all.

♂1724: D.A. 6 Feb ±2 wks

I (temporarily) removed ♂1520 for the experiment, while ♀1627 (a helper ♀ unrelated to the breeder ♀) was brought back so Philip could put a radio on her.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack HNHR

(24 April) Mark remarked that here, as at Buckeye and Rana Creek when he caught the whole group (not positive at Rana Creek but likely)
* no power struggle has erupted, unlike various cases when we've just caught the birds of one sex. Possibly because there's noone out there to advertise the vacancies??

Wow! Great idea to test whether vacancies are advertised: look up and compare power struggle activity occurring after catching birds of 1 sex compared to breeders of both sexes or all birds. Do this!

635. 2 birds heard in granary; 3rd bird just flew over. Well, maybe this isn't so certain - it's only been a hour or so since dawn. Someone's found it, at least: several wakas.

638. 3 ♂♂ let go.

25 April 815. ♂1520 died in the aviary. Damn! We had him sandwiched in between the breeding group and the Rana Creek birds - certainly a stressful situation. Rana Creek birds will be moved. This can't happen again. Shit.

26 April 1445. Checked the traditional hole for no reason other than I was up here: still empty.

29 April 1345. Bird in the traditional hole! But still empty! Checked the others just to be sure.

1 May 1440. Today's the day: 1 egg in traditional hole.

13 May 740. Nest is empty!! Noone in any other holes that I checked. Right under the tree were pieces of an eggshell, almost certainly from here, so whatever happened I don't think the egg got eaten in the nest.

25 May 1620. Still no sign of a nest here, despite lots of stored acorns. Even checked the hole, but it's still empty.

1990 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower Haystack Nest Record HNHR

1 May 1440	1 egg
13 May 740	Hole empty

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lowtlaystack HNHR

29 May 1600. Lots of stored acorns here, but still no sign of a renest anywhere that I know of to look.

22 June Damn. Stanback, belatedly looking up here, reports fledglings. Must have "renested" immediately upon the "failure" of the 1 egg in the main granary; I wonder where? Damn damn damn.

2 July 1930. Back after the AOUs, we're putting our big guns up here trying to find roost holes. So far we have one new one, plus I've found about 4 (plus the whole group, apparently) over at Woolfenden (holes are in the styrofoam), where I'm going to watch for roosting.

4 July 400. Found (the) hole ~~for~~ 2 nights ago; MTS set ambush last night and here we are. Unfortunately, it appeared as though only 3 birds went in last night...

500. Got 3 babies! Now #1896-1898. With luck, this is the lot!

17 September 1615. Lots of stored acorns, both old and new, here.

11 November *Group Update*

61046. Last seen 24 April (ambushed), gone by 21 September → D.A. 1 July ± 2 months.

71627. Moved to Finch; last seen here 24 April (ambushed), moved by 5 Oct. → Moved ~ 1 Sept. ± 1 month.

1989
1990

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Central Canyon — HNHR

10 April — 800. Saw 2 birds here, apparently concerned over a Starling in the top of the (1988) nest tree, while I was watching a nearby ~~st~~ Bluebird nest.

[illegible] May — Birds appear to be going to the 1988 nest hole.

11 June — ♂1525 seen by Blomqvist; see general M.f. notes. Seems likely that these birds are hanging out down there a lot the last few days.

1 August — 1800. I can see no stored acorns ~~here~~ lurking in the known granary here.

1990

9 January — 1300. Looked around for stores here and found nothing, either in the nest tree or over at the "Refuge 1" granary. Is there no group here? or do they really manage here without any stored acorns?

31 March — 955. 2 birds flushed here: ① ♂ Mauve/M #1525 and ② ♀ Green/M ?
Some sort of group still exists here!
Not much of a clue as to who the ♀ might be - there are no obvious candidates...

24 April — 945-1000. No sign of anyone here.

29 April — 655. 1 bird (♂?) sitting in the dead Valley Oak here.

20 May — Cleaned out a Starling nest (5 eggs) from the old nest hole here.

20 October — *Group Update*
♂♂1525 & 1526 now here with ♀♀1475 & 1626 from Buckeye.
♂1523 gone! ♂1523 Disappeared about 1 April ± 2 wks
Add: ♀1475 & ♀1626. ♀1475 is probably the mystery bird I saw on 31 March, so Moved ~ 1 ~~March~~ April ± 2 wks
♀1626 → Moved ~ 1 Aug ± 1 month (seen at Buckeye 30 May).
But! Nancy saw ♀1475 feed at Buck on 7 May! So move here 1 June?

1989 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomone HNHR

22 March 1930. Ambushed the hole in the granary facing straight down tonight, nabbing all 4 ♀♀ in the group (♀1325, ♀1459, ♀1648, and ♀1649). Unfortunately, a 5th bird came by (presumably ♂1167) but he roosted elsewhere.

6 May 1240. Set up at the nest for ♂1167.

1345. Noone interested. I'll have to try again later.

7 May 1140. Trying again. Both ♀1325 & ♀1459 have fed. Also ♀ M/M 1649.

1300. Giving up. No sign of the ♂ yet.

8 May 545. And again.

645. He finally came - Monofilament messed up! All for now.

1340. And again.

1530. I think a night ambush is called for. ♀♀1325, 1459, and 1649 are all here in abundance (note, though, that I've yet to see ♀1648), but not the ♂.

13 May 415. After giving up on all that stuff I waited a few days for the babies to get a bit older and then, this morning, ambushed the nest before dawn, nabbing ♂1167 as hoped. I bled and measured him and then blocked him back in the hole until the 1st vestiges of dawn hit about 430.

1 August 1800. As far as I can tell, these guys are entirely out of stored acorns.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomone HNHR

31 March 1000. There are definitely acorns still stored here.
1030. A ♂ here, but otherwise slow.

5 April 61693 seen at W Gate power struggle; see notes.

12 April 1137. ♀NOBA here in the vicinity, not in the granary but nearby.
1850. 4 birds here at roosting - roosted in last year's nest hole in the tree out toward Far Knoll. Where's everyone else?

18 April Cleared out a starling nest w/eggs from the high hole in the small nest tree next to the granary (with a nestbox).

19 April Cleared out a 2nd starling nest w/eggs in the same tree; this one was low in the limb that sticks out more or less toward Laguna Conejo. (I missed the ♀, unfortunately.)

24 April 945. Noone in any holes. Watching for a bit.

28 April 1115. Bird flushed from last year's nest hole.
1405. 1 egg! Marked #1. Looks like a good bet for egg-tossing; I think I'll set up a video camera here.

29 April 550. Still the same 1 egg. Probably only 1 ♀, but I'm going to run the video camera for the hell of it anyway (there are up to 3 helper ♀♀ here, at any rate).
Video-tape run: 615-815.
1400. 2 eggs: #1 still there, #2 marked. Apparently only 1 ♀ laying here after all. Too bad.
See back for a transcription of the video tape. ♀1459 may be here after all....

30 April 600. Flushed a bird out of the nest: now 3 eggs! (she does lay early).
Set up the video at 613 and left - just in case ♀1459 exists after all.
815. ♂ in hole: still same 3 eggs.
See video transcription on back of p.3.

Video set up at Nest 29 April 610-810

600. 1 egg in nest
610. Start
624. ♀ ♂M #1325 enters
627. Leaves
*→ 736. ♀? wh-Red/Mauve ~~[illegible]~~ comes to hole, looks in, leaves.
741. ♀ ♂M #1325 at hole, enters
766. Leaves
810. End
1400. 2 eggs (1 new)

♀1325 obviously laid the egg, either at 624-627 or 741-746. But who is the mystery bird that came by at 736? The resolution of the video was not great, so ♀1459 (Mv-Blk/Mv " ") would seem to be a good possibility, in which case tossing is still a possibility! The only candidate I could find whose bands matched better (given that the colors were fairly clear) is ♀998 (Mv-Or/Mv " "), a 1985 Warp5 nestling last seen at CVGrande in March of 1986. You can see why I'm leaning toward ♀1459 despite her bands not looking quite right. Looks like I should do this again tomorrow morning if the weather's not to crummy!

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blamore Nest Record HNHR

28 April	1405	1 egg, fresh. Marked #1
29 April	550	Still same egg.
	1400	2 eggs #1 + #2 (new)
30 April	600	3 eggs; 3rd marked
	815	" "
1 May	1400	4 eggs; 4th marked.
4 May	1850	5 eggs (1-4, + new 5th)
13 May	910	4 hatchlings (2 probably hatched yesterday, 2 this morning) + 1 unhatched + unpipped egg (#3). Egg is opaque and fertile, however.
31 May	1800	Banded the 3 babies.

1990 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blamore HNHR

1 May 1400. 4 eggs now in the hole; evidently only 1 ♀ here after all.

4 May 1850. Checked hole: 5 eggs.

13 May 910. Checked nest: 4 hatchlings + 1 unhatched egg. Set up video to run for 2 hrs to see if it can do nest watches for us here...

31 May 1800. Finding no stored acorns here, I got worried and went over and banded & bled the 3 babies.

15 June 1200. Jude found ♀1849 here, who jumped out of the nest while she was at the bluebird box here and couldn't quite fly yet. I measured him/her and stuck her back in the hole.

This puts fledging here at ~32-33 days.

11 November *Group Update*

♀1459. Last seen 22 May feeding young, gone by 27 May.

Video set up at Nest 30 April 613-813

600. 3 eggs in nest (3rd just laid; ♀ flushed)
613. Start.
618. Screwed up & stopped! Oh well!

1990 Walter D Koening

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomtwo HNHR

31 March 1030. Heard some activity over here. Watching for a bit.

1050. Zilch. There are a few acorns left here, however (<100?).

12 April 1850. Heard birds here this evening while over at Blomone.

24 April 1010. Flushed a bird from this area in passing.

28 April 1120. " " " " " " " "

31 May 1750. ♂ in new hole above old opened nesthole in granary.

3 June 1400! Noone in the hole, but I opened it anyway, only to find 2 old (~21 days) nestlings! My goodness. Set Suzanne here to do a watch to see who's here!

To add insult to injury, I can't find any stores remaining here.

5 June 800. Banded the 2 babies here. Also set up an ambusher in case I have a chance to go for ♀1356.

Babies are #1867-68

1515. Looking for ♀1356.

1605. A ♂ fed; I saw ♂ wh/DB? which would make him most likely ♂1427.

1615. Got her!

17 June *Group Update*

♂1146. Last seen here 23 Feb. (Mike), gone by the breeding attempt (est FED ~ 2 May) → D.A. 23 March ± 1 month

1989 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomthree HNHR

16 April 1000. There are several birds over in ~~in~~ the area by box 218, across the vernal pool toward (more or less) Gazebo. I looked at one ♀ up in a tree who was unbanded, making me wonder - is there a separate group here? (Blomfour?) Might be worth keeping track of, just in case.

Well, I see now that there are lots of NOBAs here at Blomthree, so they probably do belong there.

1 August There were still lots of stored acorns here as of a week ago or so.

1990

31 March 1100. Flushed 1 bird from the granary area, where there are still a few stored acorns left (but not many - maybe ~250). I then heard some calls over by the Vernal Pool area and walked over there, flushing 3 (maybe only 2) birds. I only ID'd one, who was a ♀NOBA.

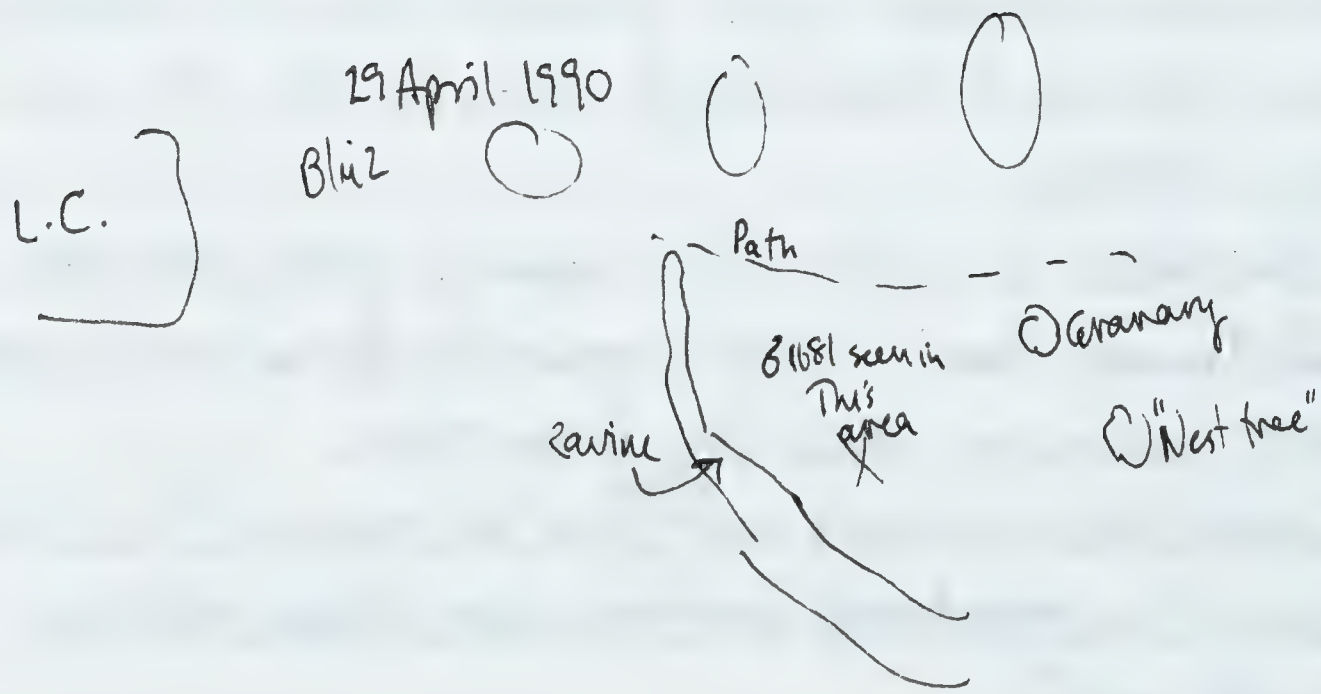
The question is, is this still a "separate" group over here? Or what's the deal then? The birds generally seemed to flush over toward Gazebo, so maybe they belong there.

18 April Cleared out a starling nest w/eggs from the lower of the 2 old nest holes in the traditional nest tree here (these holes are connected now?)

24 April 1020. Noone in any holes. Still some stored acorns here.

29 April 635. ♂ R-W(u) M/Red-LB #1681 over toward ravine *see back from central area, just sitting. They must be using a hole over here....

6 May 1615. Cleaned out a starling nest (with 4 babies) in the Blue Oak ½-way to Blomtwo (the ½-way tree).


29 April 1990
Bliz
L.C.
Path
Granary
♂ 1681 seen in This area
Ravine
"Nest tree"

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Blomthree HNHR

22 May Cleaned out a starling nest from the (nearly) horizontal nest hole in the blue oak over near the granary (5 babies). So much for the hypothesis that they can only use vertically oriented holes!

31 May 1745. No stores remaining here to speak of. Also no sign of anyone in any holes.

1989 Walter D Koenig
1990

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gazebo HNHR

26 March Observed 4 birds roost in a new hole in a Valley Oak along the fenceline (with lots of poison oak, by the nestbox). Ambush is set up and ready to go for the morning.

27 March 630. With 1 disaster, I had an otherwise very successful ambush and caught 7 birds at the hole, including ♀653, ♂718 (both wanted for DNA sample), ♀1415, ♂1416, ♀1473, ♂1643, and ♂1644. The disaster came in taking the birds down – ♂1643's leg got mangled (definitely broken) when the bag got caught in the figure 8 while rapelling down. Bummer. Otherwise he was OK, however, which was pretty lucky.

Only ♀1642 was missed; perhaps she's not there?

3 May 1000. Bird in hole in middle Valley Oak (old nest tree). Checked the hole: 4 fresh eggs.

1 August 1800. Lots of old acorns still stored here. This group's storage facilities strike me as being intermediate in size – less than Lower Haystack's for sure; probably on the order of Hay-Blom's.

1990

9 January 1230. Counted stores here, coming up with only 2326. This is fewer than I'd expected, but nonetheless I think it's pretty close, and I'd put capacity here at only ~3000.

I also flushed 7 birds from here when I arrived.

15 April ♀1415 at School Hill power struggle this morning.

16 April " " " " " " at 1010.

19 April Cleaned out a starling nest (+5 eggs) from the knothole in the nestbox tree (high up; needs a rope).

28 April 1135. ♂ in lower low Valley Oak hole.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gazebo HNHP

(28 April) 1330. Opened hole: 3 eggs, fresh.

1 May 1415. I'm fairly confident, but not positive, that there are still only 3 eggs here.

31 May 1730. Banded the 2 babies here.

3 June Birds to have stores remaining here.

17 June *Group update*

♀1642. Last seen by Donna on 18 Jan. (Steve claims to have seen her feed once on 5 June, but this is the only putative sighting of this bird here and I am skeptical). Otherwise gone by 18 March (Mike's census).
→ D.A. 18 Feb ± 1 month.

28 October 630. Ambushed a new hole that Amy found; nabbed 5 birds, including what would appear to be all the adults(?) But there are ±2 birds we missed, including a ♀NOBA that Mark figures is from a late 1989 nest that we apparently missed. So, we'll have to keep trying!

11 November *Group update*

j1847. NSAB.

1990 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Gazebo Nest Record HNHR

28 April 1330	3 eggs, fresh
1 May 1415	3 eggs
31 May 1730	Banded 2 babies

1989
1990

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

CVGrande HNHR

19 May 905. Set up at the nest; going for ♀1042 and ♂1081, who I need blood from.

930. ♂ Or/Or/DB-Or #1081 fed; didn't try for him.

948. ♂ M/LP #1079.

1000. Got ♀1042!

1015. Back to try for ♂1081.

1100. Got him! Bands not changed, but they are definitely not what's on the field list!

1990

11 May 1100. Set up at this year's nest to get ♂1079, from whom we only have dried blood.

1120. ♂1081 fed.

1157. ♀ DB-WR(W)/R #1479.

1210. Got him! (♂1079).

3 June Definitely are stores remaining here.

18 June *Group update*

♀1430, ♂1433. Last seen 4 Jan, gone by breeding season ~0 April

→ D.A 15 Feb. ± 6 wks.

17 September 1645. Looks like they ran out of acorns here; I don't see anything in the granary.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Murf HNHR

9 June 1615. No stores left here. Also little sign of a nest, although a bird may have flown out of a hole in the main nest tree, so it should be checked again soon.

17 June 1950. ♀ DR-Y(N)/M #1486 plus another bird roosting in a new hole in the Valley Oak over around toward CVette.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

CVI HNHR

14 May 1600. Set up to get the pair for blood.

1625. ♂1090 fed; line screwed up.

1635. Back again. ♂1774 fed.

1830. ♂1774 fed several more times but that's it. All for now.

1840. Well, not quite: nabbed ♀945 at the last possible minute.

Got her processed by 1900.

15 May 1625. Set up to go for the ♂.

1640. Got him! Got ♂1090.

21 May Mark will band these guys.

25 May Definitely acorns remaining here.

18 June *Group update*

♀1656. Last seen 16 Nov '89, gone by 7 Jan. → D.A. 12 Dec ± 3 wks.

11 November j1811, j1812. NSAB.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Mill HNHR

21 May 1600. Not much time, but going for the ♂NOBA or ♀1261 (Dried blood only).

1630. Will be back bientôt.

1745. Back for more

1830. ♂NOBA. Looking for the ♀.

1850. ♀1261 fed - didn't go in!!

1910. Caught the ♀ - then disaster - 2 of the 4 babies hung onto her when I pulled her out, promptly fell on the ground and died. Christ. One was a runt, the other a nice fat one. I took tissue samples (#) at least.

With luck I processed the ♀ and got out of there in time for the ♂ to roost normally....

22 May 1000. Well, I guess not. Came up here to find the remaining 2 babies alive but cold and weak. I warmed them up, bled them, and returned them, but it looks like I screwed

Yel - #1 (Bigger one)

these guys up here a bit too much, too soon.

Suggested to Mark that he swap these 2 with 4 babies from the aviary (who are ~14 do). We'll see....

25 May 1330. Transplants from the aviary look fine! Set up to see if I can get the ♂.

1530. ♂ fed but didn't go in. Will go for a night ambush.

26 May 500. Night ambush (actually morning) went fine: ♂ is now ♂1832. I plugged him back up in the nest for 10+ min when I was done, so hopefully they won't freak out more than they already have here.

18 June *Group update*

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Mill HNHR

(18 June) ♀♀1769, 1770. Last seen 20 Jan, gone by breeding season ~15 April
→ D.A. 1 March ± 6 wks.

On this day (18 June) Stanback first saw a new ♀ NOBA here, replacing ♀1261, who we'll have Disappear 9 June ± 1 wk.

7 October 515. Ambushed at the artificial hole, nabbing the bird (and only the bird) we wanted, who is now ♀1902.

11 November *Group update*
j 1843, 1844, 1845. NSAB.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

CU 2 HNHR

20 October *Group Update*

♀1683. Last seen 21 June, moved to R1 ~ 15 July ± 2 wks.

♀1682, ♂1375. Last seen 8 Jan; (Mike saw 5 unid birds here in Feb.), gone by 21 June; DA 31 March ± 2 M.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

OK Corral HNHR

9 June Still no sign of a nest here, but there are still some stored acorns here.

17 June 1920. Birds roosting early (apparently) in 2 holes here: The old nest hole high in the Valley Oak granary and a new hole in the trunk of the sycamore over by the creek.

17 September Looks like they ran out of acorns here.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Dark Hollow HNHR

16 May 1045. A couple of birds up in the trees here; possibly a group here? Noone in any holes.

9 June 1645. No acorns, no birds, probably no group to speak of, either.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Prairie Home Field (Upper) HNHP

25 April 900. Bird in hole in upper part of canyon.

915. 5 eggs! 1 a runt. Several days incubated. Possibly both breeder ♀♀ still here?

29 April 1600. Moved a blind up to the nest. On the way down I discovered a bird in another hole over by the more central storage area - another nest? I opened it and it's in good shape but empty. However, a 2nd nest is not unexpected, given that there were 2 simultaneous nests here last year, presumably (but never confirmed) the product of 2 groups in this area, an upper and a lower group (not sure what Stanback called them last year).

2 May 1010. Bird in hole in the lower hole, but still empty. Also then checked the upper hole, where the babies have just hatched, most likely yesterday.

11 May 955. As of today, this becomes officially "Upper" PHF to distinguish it from "Lower" PHF, where they now have 6 eggs.

15 May 850. Set up to catch birds here.

1040. Finally: a feed, by ♂ Or/Red #1713? (sex wrong on list?) Bird is definitely a ♂.

1104. Yes-its ♂ Or/Red / M/Red #1713. Sex is wrong on field list. He's fed 4 times now. Noone else as yet.

Not much to go on, but offhand I'd say this area is another rare case of "budding".

1200. That's it for now. Hard to tell what's up here: ♂1713 fed about 20 times in the end but there was little to suggest additional group membership. Surely there is a ♀, however?

16 May 1410. Set up again.

1990 Walter D Koering

Melanerpes formicivorus

Prairie Home Field Nest Record (Upper) HNHR

25 April 915	5 eggs, several days incubated. 4 very round, 1 a runt egg. ♂ in hole.
2 May 1020	4 babies, est. 1 to, + the runt egg.
16 May 1700	All 4 babies look fine!
22 May	Banded & bled by MTS.
28 May 1600	Babies here are fine.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Upper PHF

HNHR

(16 May) Steve, by the way, saw ♂1713 feed here and ♂ "Grn-Red/Wh M?"; no telling who this might be. Plus he saw an unbanded ♂ here too, I think. So in any case ♂1713 shouldn't be the only game in town here.

1610. Finally a 2nd ♂! But I didn't get much of a look at his bands. ♂1713 coming again as before.

1645. Have to quit. A night ambush might be illuminating.

1700. All 4 babies look just fine! Moved the blind to the other side of the nest.

17 May 1435. One more time, this time from the other side of the hole.

1520. Caught an unbanded ♂! Now ♂1808.

1540. Back watching some more.

1650. Noone returned. Quitting.

(Band fairly dd)

1654. Well, stayed after all: ♂ Yel-Or/M (or Lg-Or/M?) Seen well. Definitely not on the list. ♂1713 here also, of course.

1700. Still no sign of a ♀.

18 May My guess for at least the 3rd ♂ here is #1647: DBlue/Red Lg-Or/M; a baby from 1988; this would further strengthen the inference that this is a group that's "budded" from Lower PHF.

This bird definitely is consistent with what I've seen here (including a brief look at some faded bands on the R leg). Steve's bird could be yet a 4th bird, or, more likely, a hallucination.

21 May Watched here at length yesterday and again this morning, finally nailing down the group composition. First, the ♀ is unbanded, and unfortunately feeds very

Melanerpes formicivorus

Upper PHF HNHR

(21 May) rarely, making her hard to catch at the nest. Steve's bird is here and is ♂1285, a 1986 CVCerande baby; I caught him this morning for blood. Finally, the 3rd ♂ is definitely ♂1647. Hence, this is a good group, with 4 ♂♂ (at least 3 breeders plus ♂1713) and a ♀ (note that, since we don't know who the ♀ here last year was, we don't know whether to classify ♂1713 as a breeder or helper). And on top of all this, this group does have stored acorns remaining in its not-insubstantial granary. So I doubt it's reasonable to assume this is simply a "bud" from LPHF à la Plague Annex; indications are that this group may have been around for some time.

22 May Mark banded the babies earlier today.
1415. Now, for what it's worth, I'm trying one last time for the ♀.
1645. Nobody fed!

3 June There are stores remaining up here.

20 June 430. A lot of effort up here for nothing so far: with 4 holes covered, I got j1819 (in the nest hole). Either everyone else escaped (possibly from the other opened hole in the nest tree) or roosted elsewhere.

5 July 2030. Set up ambushes everywhere, but only 2 birds roosted - both in this year's nest hole. 1 escaped when I pulled the line (!); the other was ♂1713, who escaped from the bag as I brought him down! Heavens! It must be time for a break!

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

~~Lower~~ Middle Prairie Home Field HNHR

11 May 955. The hole here now has 6 eggs a couple days incubated. Probably 2 ♀♀ here. Definitely a separate group from the "upper" canyon here; see their notes for earlier info on this group.

Note that these 2 groups certainly existed last year as well, since there were 2 nests here then also.

18 May 1615. Checked the nest here, which now has 5 babies plus 1 egg, in which there was a hole ~ ½cm in diameter from which the contents had been removed; clearly this 6th egg never hatched.

28 May 1530. Bled the 4 remaining babies.

1630. Well! Wandering down to the lower granary area (by box 115) I discovered yet a 3rd active nest here, with youngish babies! Hence, I think I'll have to change this group to "Middle PHF" and make the new 3rd group "LPHF"! Heavens!

3 June There are stores remaining here.

9 June 1130. Oddly enough, only a single baby (#1840) is left in the hole here. Snake predation maybe? He, at least, was in OK shape.

1990 Walter D Koenig

Est LED = 5 May

Melanerpes formicivorus

M PHF Nest Record

HNHR

11 May 955 — 6 eggs, incubated

18 May 1615 — 5 babies, ~2 to (1 runt); + 1 egg with unhatched but sucked dry

28 May 1530 — Bled the 4 babies

	1839 ① Black	1840 ② Red	1841 ③ Orange	1842 ④ Green
28 May 1530	47.9	55.1	56.0	45.5
9 June 1130	Gone	88.0 (75)	Gone	Gone

1990 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Lower PHF HNHR

28 May 1630. Discovered this third nest (=group, presumably) here in the lower patch of trees nearest the road. They have young babies in a strange hole I'll have to try and open tomorrow. Who lives here? Beats me. Everyone else we knew of here ~~was~~ is feeding at one or the other (or both - ♂1713?) of the 2 other active nests here.

29 May 1210. Took awhile, but I eventually got into the hole here, where there are 3 babies ~8 do + 1 unhatched (but developed) egg.

3 June There are stores remaining here. Set up to catch birds, who as far as we know are all NOBAs.

1600. Going for a bird.

1615. Got a ♂. Now #1862.

1633. Back for another ½ hr. A ♀ next?

1705. Got a ♀! Now #1863. All for now!

6 June 1520. Back to watch and catch, in case there are more NOBAs here.

1545. ♂1862 came but was freaked and didn't feed.

1548. This time he fed.

1650. ♂1862's fed several times. ♀1863 just fed for the 1st time.

1715. Noone besides these 2, who I suspect are it here. But we'll do a real watch or 2 here to be sure. Leaving for now.

8 June Steve watched here also; so far none but this pair seem to be here.

12 June 1415. Banded & bled the 2 babies here.

1989
1990

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate — HNHR

28 March — An ambush (530) at last year's nest hole (dead hole high in the sycamore) yielded 2 first-year birds: ♂1585 and ♀1664. However, they're also using the other hole for roosting, so I can try there next time.

27 April — 1620. Checked hole here: 7 eggs, freshish.

12 May — 1750. Checked hole: 4 babies, ~6 do, + 2 unhatched eggs. ELED ≅ 25 April.

15 May — 1530. Set up to try and catch the ub ♀.
1608. ① ♀ Blk-LB/LP #1664.
1720. ② ♀ /M #1663(?). Birds don't seem to be freaked out by the setup, but feeding is still real slow.
1724. In tree: ③ ♂ Yel-Brn/Wh #1313 and ④ ♀ Red/LB #1571.
1730. Quitting for now.

17 May — 930. Set up again.
940. ① ♂ M/Blk-Wh(w) #1106 in the tree.
1000. Got her! Now ♀1688.

28 May — 1700. Banded the 4 babies here as #

1990

10 January — 1345. Counted stores: 1560. There are a good number of reasonable limbs full of acorns here. I'd put capacity at ~2000.

4 April — 1855. 2 birds appear to have roosted in the nest hole (in the road sycamore) here tonight.

5 April — 755. At least 8 birds here and lots of chasing. Watching for a bit. ① Red/LB #1571 (♀). ② ♀ LB-Yel/Or 1595 (from Pipeline). A mounting! ③ ♀ LB/M #1688. ④ Red-Blk/Wh #1742(♂). ⑤ ♀ NOBA.
808. Make that 10-12 birds. Not sure what's up yet.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate HNHR

(5 April) 813. 2 birds grappled to the ground.

823. ♀1595 for sure. Also ♂ ~~♀ or/Blk or(W)~~? ♂ M/LG Rd/BP-Blk(W) # 1693 from BIM1!

825. I'd say we're up to at least 15 birds.

827. ♂NOBA. Could be a ♂-power struggle after all, even though there are several intruding ♀♀ here.

833. ♂NOBA mounting - and then being reverse mounted - by a ♀1595.

836. ♂ Wh/LB-Wh #1558 from Road Warrior (I bet)!

839. Yel/ DG/Yel? (seen well). Maybe Yel Blk/Yel?

905. There's a coalition of 2 or maybe 3 ♀NOBA here. Looks like they may be in rather tight with ♂1742.

The 2 ♀♀, esp. ♀1571, are most prominent here. Intruders are of both sexes. Maybe started as a ♂ power struggle and attracting these additional ♀♀? No sign of ♂1106 or ♂1313 in any case. But there are definitely NOBAs of both sexes.

? 915. ♂ Mv/Yel Blk/Yel? (did not see both legs at once. Could be 2 birds: ♂ Mv/Yel & ♂ Blk/Yel.) → No: ♂ Mv/Yel Blk/Yel #1585 (1988 baby - last seen spring 1989)

934. Think I finally got ♀ Red/M DB-Blk? #1741. → yes.

943. ♂ Wh-?/LB-Wh M/ ? Blk-DB/Blk-Or ♀1741

1013. ♀ LB-Yel/Or #1595 (Pipeline).

1015. Leaving. Power struggle activity still strong. My best guess is 12-15 birds involved, including several NOBAs (both ♂ & ♀). However, it only makes sense that the root of it all is as a replacement for the breeder ♂♂, who both appear to be gone. The 2 breeder ♀♀ + ♀1741 should be able to handle things, however.

1020. 1 more: ? Wh-Red/Yel ♀1609 from 1500!

1425. Things have slowed down a lot.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate HNHR

(5 April) 1435. ♀1688 here, also ♀1741 and ♂1585. ♂1742 here. Not much intruder activity at all.

1440. Leaving for now. Interesting case!

6 April 930. All pretty quiet here. Is the power struggle over already? Quite a few stored acorns still here, by the way.

935. A chase. ① ♀ LB/M #1688. ② ♂ M/Blk-Red #1742. ③ ♀ Or/DG/ #1741.

952. ♂ LB-Wh/M LP-LB? (Maybe ♂1545 from MacFlat?). Not really being chased, so maybe he's another old WGate baby.

1000. All pretty darn quiet here. It would appear than the younguns "won" and that we're in for some more "finch" effect.

1001. The "mystery" ♂ (see 952) is here preening. Definitely not an intruder. Maybe ♂ LP/LB-LP or possibly ♂ LB-LP/LP-LB (or Yel)

1003. ♂ Mv/Yel #1585 above him.

1010. All quiet on the Westgate front. Everyone here (I didn't see ♀1571, but surely she's here somewhere unless she wore herself out yesterday) along with the one additional ♂ yet to be ID'd.

1400. Yes - the "mystery" bird is ♂1582, another 1988 baby missing since winter (Feb.) 1989.

21 April 1545. Watching for a bit. Note: There's a new hole, apparently, several feet below the hole they've been using in the granary/nest tree.

1555. ① ♂ Dg/Yel #1585.

1615. Pretty quiet. No sign of the new ♀ as yet. Here she is! Over in a Valley Oak by the creek: ♀ LBlue/M #1688. Oops! I get it. There should be a new ♂ here, possibly. Seems like a likely candidate for another "finch" effect.

25 May 1045. Bird in new hole in granary!

26 May 1400. Opened hole: 8 eggs, fresh!

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Westgate HNHR

6 June 1500. Checked the hole: 5 babies, ~3-4 do, plus 3 unhatched and apparently infertile eggs.
Lots of stores left here, by the way.

16 June 1330. Bled the 5 babies (still 2 eggs in the nest).

① 1886 Yellow	② 1887 Blue	③ 1888 Black	④ 1889 Red	⑤ 1890
54.1 (27)	58.9 (30)	49.3 (23)	50.8 (28)	51.0 (25)

18 June *Group Update*
No longer here:
♀1664. Last seen 9 Nov '89, gone by 10 Dec → D.A. 24 Nov ± 2 wks
♂1313. Last seen 10 Dec, gone by 4 Jan → D.A. 22 Dec ± 2 wks.
♂1106. Last seen 20 Feb, gone by 5 April → D.A. 14 March ± 3 wks
♂1582. Here (returned) during the power struggle 5-6 April, but apparently left shortly thereafter or at least before breeding. Best to say he only returned for a few days.
And finally, re ♂1585. Despite the apparent incest, he would appear to be the putative breeder here.

20 October ♂1582 is back, and has been at least since 16 June when he was 1st seen feeding. I'm just going to have him be here starting in April.

11 November *Group update
j1890. NSAB.

1989
1990

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Gate HNHR

27 April 1600. Checked the high hole in the sycamore, which has 3 fresh-ish eggs in it.

1990

10 January 1330. Except for the limbs we've stuck up here, this is one group that's definitely losing the battle against granary degradation. I counted 420 acorns, and, (mainly because of the artificial limbs, which are not particularly full), I'd set capacity here at ~800.

4 April 1845. At least 1 bird roosting in the high sycamore nest hole tonight.

18 June *Group Update*

♀1771. last seen 30 Sept. '89, gone by 10 Dec. → DA 5 Nov. ± 1 month.

19 June 1130. Skip found a nest! in the Live Oak-odd hole. Babies ~25 do, banded & bled. (2 of them). Just in time!

→ Est. hatching date ~ 25 May, est LED = 14 May.

There are no stores left here that I can see....

20 October *Group Update*

♂1454 Last seen 19 June, gone by 2 October, DA ~ 8 Aug ± 1 M.

♂♂ 1512, 1513. Moved here from ARF, TOO. ~ 8 August.

11 November *Group update*

Amy notes that ♀1453 is gone here and that both ♀♀ 1571 & 1688 from Gate were hanging out here. Both are the breeders at Gate, so what's up? This becomes even weirder when I realize that noone got a good look at the ♀ here at the nest except for Skip who reported that she had "one red band on right leg". This is most likely ♀1571!! (♀ M/Red) not ♀1453 (M/DB-Red)! Could this bird have bred at both places?? Maybe fingerprinting will tell.... For now, I'll have her disappear (conservatively) on 1 July—

1990 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Pipeline HNHR

11 January 1300. Counted stores here: 650. This includes quite a few holes the birds have made here; in fact, the limbs we put up don't seem particularly full. I'd put capacity at ~~1800~~. 1500.

5 April ♀1595 seen at WGate power struggle; see notes.

1750. 2 birds (1♂, 1♀) in a hole in the granary; went up and checked it to find a hole with a yukky bottom. It would need a lot of work (mostly woodchips) to be useable (maybe I should add them?)

15 April ♀1595 at School Hill power struggle this morning.

20 April 1830. Hole in granary in better shape but still empty. Still needs some chips on the bottom.

24 April 1900. Bird(s) roosting in the hole in the granary.

29 May 940. Watching. Is there a ♂ here (♂1689 died while being radio-tracked).

945.! Starling in the good nest hole! Going to clean it out.

1030. Had 4 youngish babies + 1 unhatched egg. All gone. No sign of wickerbills. Going.

Granary looks basically empty here.

20 October *Group Update*

All former birds gone. ♀1690, ♀1691 last seen 3 Jan; ~~gone by~~ but Mike saw 3 birds here on 1 March. (them? or the new ones?). I think I'll have them go ~ 1 April ± 2 months.

They could have disappeared anytime between Jan – September.

♀1595. Here ~~[illegible]~~ 15 April, gone by ~~October~~ 7 July (seen at Hay), DA ~~[illegible]~~. 1 June

Here now: ♂1689, ♀♀1151, ♀1468. We'll have them move (inherit) in on 1 ~~September~~ July.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Wolfpack HNHR

17 January 1440. Counted stores: 316, mostly in the Sycamore nest tree and the large VO by the creek. There are, however a few in a 2nd sycamore by the creek in one branch and some holes, anyway, in the VO just across the road toward Warp 5. All in all, I'd say they may have capacity on the order of 1000; not bad at all for a new group. I'm still not sure how or why they manage - Finch, empty for some time now, is still a much better territory!

5 April 1730. A bird was looking out of the hole in the dead sycamore limb (smallish tree over toward R1) this afternoon so I went up and checked it: hole in good shape but no eggs yet.

20 April 1845. Bird in same hole earlier today: still empty.

24 April 1900. " (s) roosting in the dead sycamore hole.

26 April 1130. 3 fresh eggs in live sycamore hole!

16 May 1140. Down to 2 babies. (See MTS notes for intervening data at this nest).

18 May 1440. Set up to get ♂1336, from whom I only have dried blood.
Seen feeding: ♀M, #1672.
1525. ♂1336 came - bobber messed up. Will try again tomorrow.

19 May 1300. Trying again for ♂1336.
1410. Zilch! Maybe tomorrow....

20 May 750. And again, this time from the other side of the road.
1005. ! ♂1336 in - somehow escaped! Rats!!

22 May 1215. Set up for ♂1336 again.
1330. Got him, finally! Bled the babies for good measure.

28 May 1500. Banded the babies, who are fine.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Wolfpack Nest Record — HNHR

26 April 1130	3 eggs, fresh
6 May 1500 (MTS)	4 eggs, not hatched yet
16 May 1140	2 babies (MTS has checked in between 6 May & today).
22 May 1345	Bled babies

	① 1822 Black	② 1823
22 May 1345	64.2 (29)	58.6 (28)
28 May 1500	77.0 (55)	69.6 (53)
Cul:	18.7	18.5
6th p:	31	30
Sheath:	26	22
Tail:	25	22
Bands:	White / Black	DBlue-LGreen / LGreen
	Blk-Wh(n) / 962-23108	962-23109 / DGreen

Melanerpes formicivorus

Wolfpack HNHR

16 June 1600. No sign of stores here in what I can tell are the storage areas.

18 June. *Group Update*

♂579 [illegible]. Last seen 6 Jan, ~~[illegible] apparently still here gone by~~ apparently still here 1 March (2♂♂ seen by Mike); gone by breeding ~ 15 April → D.A. 21 March ± 3 wks

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Warp 5 HNHR

11 January 1230. No sign of any stored acorns (or birds) here in passing. Looks like another abandoned (marginal) territory.

24 April 1900. Noone roosting (apparently) in the black oak holes.

15 June 1630. Still no woodpecker spoor here.

26 September 1630. And still no sign of woodpecker activity here.

1989
1990

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 HNHR

12 June 1730. Watched the new hole in a Live Oak up above the Finch granary that I found last night, but no sign of a nest.
These birds do have some stored acorns left (not many, but definitely a few).

2 August 845. No stores left here.

1990

17 January 1430. Counted stores: Valley Oak: 410, Sycamore: 385 } 795.

Not so good, but a lot better than most of the other groups out here along the road!

Note that there are, as usual at this point, no stored acorns over at the old (but still apparently quite functional) Finch granaries.

28 March Opened the new hole in the Creek Sycamore here, where at least 1 bird roosted last night. I also set an ambush, but noone roosted here tonight.

24 April Still can't find where anyone's roosting here.

20 May 830. The mystery is finally solved here, presumably, with a bird in the high hole in the sycamore along the road.

24 May 800. Finally got up to the hole: 4 eggs, incubated.

28 May 1400. Babies (all 4) have hatched, probably already in day 3.

8 June 1520. At long last, I'm set up and in position to get the ♂ NOBA. As a backup, I need frozen blood from ♀804.

1700. Line messed up. Trying again, probably just for the ♀.

1815. Nope. Not this time. All 4 babies in the nest.

10 June 1530. Skip got the ♂! Whahoo! Then bled the 5 babies:

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 1 — HNHR

	1876	1877	1878	1879
(10 June)	① LPink	② DBlue	③ Red	④
	76.0(47)	66.9(37)	66.8(46)	61.5(40)

While watching here, Skip also saw the 2 helper ♂♂ (♂1573 & ♂1575).

12 June Set up Skip at the helm and caught ♀804! Then banded the babies so I don't have to come up here again:

	1876	1877	1878	1879
~~1520~~ Time 1520 wt(wl)	80.0(58)	69.3(47)	64.9(53)	58.1(49)
6th 10(sh)	31(23)	22(18)	27(19)	24(18)
Cul	19.8	19.6	19.9	18.4
Tail (sh)	23(13)	16(10)	19(11)	16(10)
Bands	962-23135	-36	-37	-38
Colors	Red-Mv / M	Wh-DB / DB-Wh	M / R-W(N)	DG / Red
	Or / LP	DB / M	Red / R-W(N)	M / DG-Red

There are some stores left in the Main granary.

18 June *Group Update*

♀1574. Last seen 13 Nov. '89, gone by 6 Jan → DA 9 Dec ± 3 wks

20 October *Group Update*

♀1663. Last seen 21 June (Mike), moved to R1 sometime after 25 June, prob. ~ 15 July ± 2 wks, replacing ♀804.

~~♀1682? Last seen 8 Jan, gone by 21 June → DA NSA 31 March ± 2M.~~
~~♂1375 (Mike saw 5 birds (unid) in Feb)~~

♀804. Last seen 12 June, gone by 4 Oct, DA 15 July ± 1M.

11 November All babies (j1876-1879) NSAB.

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1990

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road Warrior HNHR

27 March Saw 3 birds here this evening; 2 (at least) roosted in the hole down near Road 1. Ambush?

30 March Set ambush tonight, but string broke.

16 May 1700. Opened the hole in the Valley Oak in the creek by the granary where I saw a bird 2 days ago. Hole is in excellent shape, but currently empty.

31 May Still no sign of a nest here. Also, it would appear that they are out of acorns.

This evening, all 3 birds (almost certainly the whole group) roosted in the hole I opened back on the 16th.

2 June 2145. Tonight I ambushed the hole, nabbing all 3 birds. They turned out, much to my surprise, to be ♂1557 and 1558 - the 2 babies from last year - plus ♀1552, an immigrant from Wolfpack (1st yr bird).

* Hence: the old breeding ♂1452 and the ♀NOBA are both gone, replaced by these birds. Since ♀1552 apparently moved early (she was last seen in June of 1988) I'll have all this happening, more or less arbitrarily, on 0 Sept ± 3 months.

1990

17 January 1430. Checked the granary here and found no stored acorns. Looks bad for this group, unfortunately.

29 March 1540. Watched here for 20 min or so; no sign of birds.

5 April ♂1558 seen at Weak power struggle; see notes.

16 June 1500. A ♀ in the granary area; maybe a group here after all?

26 September 1640. No sign of life here. Granary empty.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Road Warrior HNHR

24 October *Group Update*

81557, 1558 gone. Both not really watched since last year; 81558 seen at a PS in April. Indeed, it doesn't really look as tho they were there last winter. I'll have them D.A. ~~[illegible]~~ 1 March 1990 (both probably moved). ± 2 months

But 71552 is still there!

81641 has replaced them. He was at OKCO on 19 Feb, we'll have him move 1 March 1990.

1989
1990

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

MacFlat — HNHR

18 May — 1215. Cut a large gopher snake out of the netting Mark put around the sycamore nest tree here.

1990

17 January — 1415. There appear to be only 116 stored acorns here in the various scattered storage areas. Not so good - capacity is surely well over 1000! Also, there are a fair number (100?) of shells, so they've certainly passed their peak already.

29 March — 1440. Here to watch for a bit. Looks like they are pretty much out of stores already.

1500. 3 birds way up on the side of POHill (where there are 1 or 2 reasonable-looking holes as well) but otherwise all quiet.

24 April — 1850. At least one bird was tooling around here this evening.

6 May — 1500. 3 fresh eggs in the low hole over the road (MTS).

30 May — 645. Set up for ♀1451 or ♂1073 (dried blood only). *Note: ♂1073 is gone!*

[redacted]15. This is ridiculous. Bitch! Leaving.

31 May — 1030. Here again, this time up in a blind.

1230. ♂1510 fed, but that's it. These guys are tough. All for now.

1 June — 1810. A short try in the evening...

1818. ♂1510 fed.

[redacted]00. Several ♂ feedings, but no sign of the ♀. A bientôt.

2 June — 615. And again... 625. ♂ Red/DB #1633 fed.

645. Got her!

700. Bled the 2 babies as well.

5 June — Suzanne reports having seen a ♂(?) LB-LPink/DBlue M?/Red?orange? feed here. What's particularly interesting is that she noted a small black band on the forehead making its sex unclear; Tami reported the same problem

1990 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Macflat Nest Record HNHR

6 May 1500 (MTS) 3 fresh eggs

2 June 700 Bled the 2 babies

	1853 ① Yellow	② 1854
2 June 700	67.0 (60)	75.1 (56)
9 June 1100.		

Melanerpes formicivorus

MacFlat HNHR

(5 June) for a bird she saw feed here earlier in the game. So - there would indeed appear to be a 4th bird here (♂, I suspect)!

Looking things over, I bet this is ♀1546 - the ♀ helper here, who is ♀ LGreen - LP/LGreen / ♂ DBlue / M. I need to check up on what Tami saw of her/him -

9 June 1100. Banded the 2 babies, who are by now quite fiesty.

18 June *Group Update*

No longer extant here:

♂1545. Last seen 21 Sept '89, gone by 3 Oct → DA 27 Sept ± 1 wk.

♂1073. Last seen 3 Oct. '89, gone by 22 Oct. → D.A. 12 Oct ± 2 wks

♂1712. Last seen 22 Oct '89, gone by ~1 Nov → DA. 26 Oct. ± 1 wks

♀1546. Hung around a bit. Last seen 20 Nov with ♀1451 at R3, gone by 5 Jan. → D.A 13 Dec. ± 3 wks

Moved from R3:

♂♂1510 & 1633, 1st seen here 22 Oct, after which ♀1451 seen several times at R3. → Moved 15 Oct ± 1 wks.

1989
1990

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Road 3 HNHR

12 June Some acorns still in the granary here

27 June 1115. Watching from the truck.

1215. 1 bird came by, but noone is really using the granary here.

2 August 830. Birds seem to be out of stored acorns now.

1990

17 January 1400. Counted stores: Main sycamore: 346 } 347.
Valley Oak: 1

Acorns appear to fill only a small proportion (10%?) of holes here; they are nowhere near capacity. They are also certainly at least somewhat past their peak, as there are some (not a lot) of shells up in storage holes.

29 March 1430. Not too surprisingly, the birds seem to be close to out of acorns here already.

24 April At least 1 bird flushed from the granary here this evening.

1989 Walter D. Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill HNHR

21 April 1745. Noone seen in any holes here.

22 April 1630. Still " " " " " " .

24 April 1130. Bird in new hole off in the forest just N. of the field (see map on back). No sound of babies, but it's undoubtedly it!

27 April 1400. Opened the new hole: 5 eggs, incubated & opaque. Could hatch anytime.

30 April 1130. 2 babies have hatched - 1 much larger than the other. 3 unhatched eggs, 2 normal & undeveloped plus 1 runt egg (!)

18 May 1430. Opened the hole, only 2 find a big (3') gopher snake, with 2 big lumps in his tummy (the babies were alive about a week ago when I walked by!). I threw the snake out and reached in only to pull out a second large gopher snake as big as the first! Zounds! Communal roosting in nest cavities by gopher snakes? In any case, when I finally got all the snakes out there was, unsurprisingly, no woodpeckers remaining.

No! See below

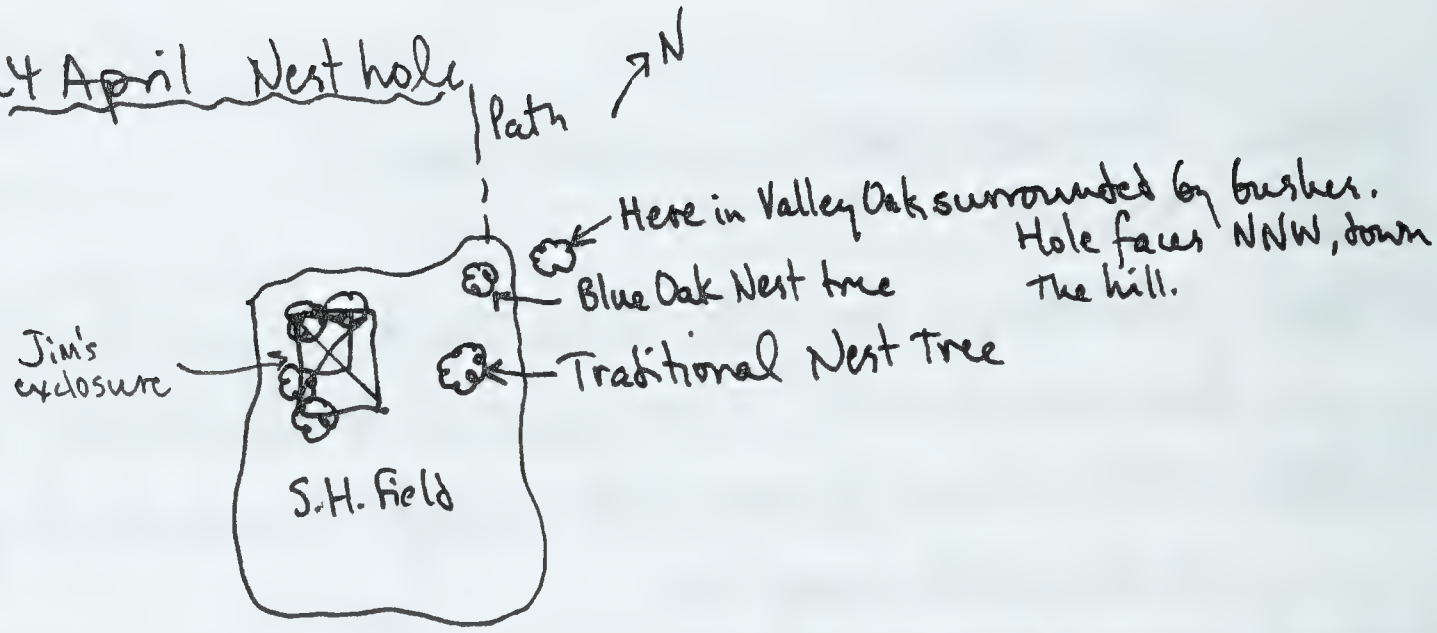
1500. This is bizarre. Walking back from School Hill West I passed the large Blue Oak up in the forest by the path only to flush out a bird and hear small babies! So maybe the failure over at the other hole was longer ago than I thought!

Well, Stanback reminded me that an additional group was here this winter (School Hill "C"?); this nest is almost certainly theirs, not School Hills.

4 June 1630. Looked for a nest; zip. There are acorns remaining here, however.

10 June 900. ♀ DBIM #260 here; flying to 1st nest hole? Going to check.

24 April Nest hole



1989
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Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill — HNHR

(10 June) 1100. Bird in old Blue Oak hole at bottom of field! With much travail I opened the hole: 3 fresh eggs (1 small, but not a runt).

16 June 1400. Same 3 eggs in the hole; bird incubating.

24 June 1140. Mark reported that the eggs (all of them) are infertile here, and he was right. All 3 are still in the hole, undeveloped and cold.

1990

10 January 1300. Counted stores: Main tree: 2314; 2° tree: 76 } 2390.

The granaries are fairly full; I'd put capacity at < 3000.

12 April 740. Watching. 5 birds together down the hill a ways. Flushed when I walked down. Need to get another blind up here.

830. Back. 3 birds in Tree 1, including ♀ wh/Mauve? ?? Must have mixed this up?

835. ① ♂ Or/M/ #1385.

840. Looks pretty much like mate-guarding is going on here. Birds are hanging together in a very tight group. There are a good number of acorns left here, by the way.

845. ② ♂ Red/Red? #1620. ③ ♂ M/? (La-Yel) - #1387. ④ ♂ DB/DG Dk/M #1388.

902. ⑤ ♀ wh/M #260. Also I'm pretty sure about #1388 (that it's not ♂1426, who I haven't seen yet).

905. Everyone's here, except for ♂1426 (could ♂1426 and ♂1388 gotten mixed up in the Feb. census?). No nest yet, but apparently getting close.

14 April 1615. Came up with a blind to find a fair amount of power struggle-like activity going on. Don't tell me ♀260 bit the dust...??

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill HNHR

(14 April) Unfortunately, I didn't bring a scope, so I'll have to return and find out what's up later on.

15 April 820. Good activity up here still. Watching. Must be 15+ birds around. ① ♀ M DB/Wh-DB ?(1475) ② ♀ NOBA. ③ ♀ LG-DG/M #1445 (Knoll)
? ④ ♂ DG/M #1388. ⑤ ♂ Red/DG-Or #1620. ⑥ ♀? Y-R/R-Y ~~Red/R-Yel~~ ? ~~⑦ ♀~~
⑦ ♂ LG?-Yel/DK #1387. ⑧ ♀ R-Yel(N)/M (2 possibilities: ♀1160 from OKCO or ♀1747 from CVGr). ⑨ ♀ Mauve/M #1649 (Blomore) (or ♀1624 from Buckeye?)
⑩ ♀ LB-Yel/Or DB-LB/M #1595 (Pipeline). ⑪ ♀ DG/LB-DG #1475 (Buckeye!)
⑫ ♀ M/DB-LB #1560 (Y) ⑬ ♂ Yel-LB/LB-Yel #1426. ⑭ ♀ LG/LB-Yel #1478 (Buckeye) (with a 2nd ♀). Must be 20 birds here at least!
⑭ ♀ Wh/M #1475 (Buckeye; in tree with ♀1478).
⑫ ♀ M/DB-LB LB-Yel/Red #1560 (Y). ⑬ ♀ Red-Yel/DG (#1415 from Gazebo?) Yes.
There are at least several (3-5) ♀NOBAs here.
⑮ ♀ M/Red-LG #1415 (Gazebo) ⑮ ♂ Or/Or #1385

1100. Actually, there's at least one set of 3 ♀NOBAs in the thick of things here. ♀ LB-Yel/Or #1595.

♀260: D.A. 13 April ± 1 day

1130. Going to have to give up for now. Things still very active. Clearly the end of an era with the obvious loss of ♀260 within the past couple days. Not clear who's winning: ♀1415 from Gazebo is in there, as are the Buckeye ♀♀ and a trio of ♀NOBAs. Never did get positive IDs on birds ⑧ and ⑨ above, unfortunately.

16 April 1000. Things fairly quiet, but still some activity.
① ♀ Red-Yel/DG #1415 drumming in 1st exclosure tree.
② ♂ Or/Or #1385 ③ ♂ M/ #1387. In 2nd exclosure tree.

1030. 4-6 other birds here, but it's beginning to rain and it's not at all clear what's up at the moment, so we're off.

28 April 845. Watching.

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill HNHR

(28 April) 850.! ♀wh/m #260!!? Holy cow! Don't tell me she's been resurrected? It even looks like she may be being guarded! How does this sort of thing happen?

915. ♂Da/m #1388. ♂Rd/Da-Or #1620. ♀DB/Wh #260. She's here alright. My goodness. If I hadn't been up here 10 days ago I don't think I'd have any suspicion of anything suspicious happening at all. So where was she when all those new ♀♀ were up here? And how did she regain her place? Very strange indeed; I was quite sure she had bit the dust.

30 April 1145. Quiet here in passing; noone in any of the known holes.

4 June 1400. Still no sign of a nest, but lots of stored acorns remaining.

18 June Note that Mike reports a tentative revival of "Sch Hill "B"" here, up around the saddle (not on the "SH'C'" side). No sign of nests in either place, however!

15 July The bad news is that it appears we missed a nest here: Skip saw a jNOBA here today along with lots of begging & apparent feeding of fledglings. Shit.

I set an ambush at the Blue Oak hole: zilch. But we did get some roosting elsewhere so we'll try again tomorrow.

16 July Lots of power struggle activity here today, making the entire situation quite confusing (are the babies maybe from elsewhere, having followed adults in their group to the power struggle?)

17 July An ambush this morning in the forest hole yield 2 of the ♂♂ and an unbanded baby (now j1899). This makes it more likely, although by no means certain, that I did miss a nest here 5/10. 2 nets up. Skip keeping an eye on them.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill HNHR

(17 July) 730. ♀1690 (from Pipeline) measured after having been caught in the nets. Power struggle activity still going on.

815. Have caught j1856 from Hay-Blom, ♂1388, and another jNOBA (now j1900) in the nets. Still going!

845. watching. About 12+ birds here, including several begging juvs. ① ♂ Red/DB-Or #1620. ② j1899 in the granary begging, but not clear that anyone was paying attention. ③ j1900 up here also. ④ ♂1388. ⑤ ♀NOBA, ⑥ ♂ Or/Or #1385.

900. j1899 & 1900 are the only 2 in evidence - with luck we caught all the jNOBAs. Otherwise it would seem to be a ♀ power struggle - did ♀260 finally kick the bucket?

21 October Apparently so; she's been replaced by a ♀NOBA.

1989
1990

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Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill "C"

HNHR

19 May 1700. Opened the nest here which I discovered yesterday thinking this was School Hill. They have 4 babies, not so young - eyes are open and feathers are developing - I'd say ~13 days old. That makes the est. LED 25 April. These birds have some acorns stored in the nest tree. Tomorrow I'll watch to see who's here.

20 May 825. Set up to ambush at the nest; watching.
940. Caught an ub ♂, 1st bird to feed. Now ♂1698
1100. ♀ came: ♀ R-W(n)/M ♂ Blk-Wh(n)/LB 1677.
1105. Quitting. Will watch again tomorrow to make sure there's only a pair here.

21 May 1430. Took blood and put FWS bands on the 4 babies here, who are now #1705-1708. I should finish banding them on or about 28 May.

28 May 1600. Banded and remeasured the 4 babies, all of whom are just peachy.

10 June 800. No signs from the nest, as expected. There are a few acorns left in the small limb in the ~~gra~~ nest tree, so they do still have stores. Is this their whole granary?

1990

10 January 1230. There are no stores here, either in the ~~gran~~ nest tree or a tree just up the hill, where there are ~100 holes in one limb. My guess is that the group here is now defunct.

12 April 740. Nothing here in passing.

18 June *Group update*

♂1698. Last seen 28 Sept, no sign since Jan, at least → D.A. 19 Nov ± 6 wks
Group is currently defunct, as far as we can tell.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West HNHR

21 April 1800. Bird flushed from 1988 (2nd) nest hole. Climbed up and checked it - it has been deepened and I couldn't reach the bottom, but with a stick I was pretty sure I felt at least 2 eggs.

22 April 1700. Opened the hole, which has 3 eggs; 2 are opaque and dirty, one translucent and dirty. My guess is that only the 2 are fertile and that incubation is well along.

27 April 1420. Noone in hole, but still 3 eggs, warm & dirty.

30 April 1200. All 3 babies have hatched; look fine!

13 May 1140. Set up for nest ambush.

1300. NOBA♀ came to feed! Got her! Banded and released by 1315. Staying on to try for a 2nd bird. ♀ is now #1687.

1400. Pretty darn slow up here. Will have to try again tomorrow.

14 May 1445. Set up and trying again.

1545. ① ♂ Or/M #530, fed.

1625. ♂ Or-Wh/M #530 again.

1645. Leaving. My guess is that it's just a pair here: ♂530 and the new ♀ that I caught yesterday. Things are so slow here that's it's hard to know for sure, but I doubt anyone else is here. Indeed, were all those other birds (♀1374, ♀1389, & ♂ u6) really seen well earlier this year?

Sorry, Mark - it was too cold, and I was too tired, to measure the babies!

21 May 1515. Came up to band the babies only to find them (2) dead and cold in the nest. What happened? Babies have certainly not been dead more than a day or so. WL = 59 and 55. Parasites are still on them! I guess I'll take them back and get tissue.

1989
1990

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West — HNHR

(21 May) I doubt this is really the critical factor, but these birds don't have any acorns left in the granary. (I don't think they had any several weeks ago either, however, and can't understand why they would fail now.)

24 May Jane really did see ♀♀1374 & 1389 in February, so my best guess is:

♀♀1374 & 1389. Last seen 16 Feb., (by Jane), gone by 15 April (about the time the nest started). Dis. abt. 15 March ± 1 Mo.

My best guess is that the NOBA ♂ (#5330, seen by Jane on 27 Jan.) never really belonged here.

16 June 1415. No sign of any activity here in any of the holes.

1990

10 January 1310. There are some old shells here, but no intact stored acorns. My guess is that this group is gone, at least for the winter.

12 April 805. Looks & sounds pretty deserted up here.

815. Well, over on the far West side was a ♂ kamitting who flushed down when I came upon him. Could be a wanderer, or maybe there are birds here after all.

30 April 1115.! ♀M/ ? flushed from last year's nest hole! Checked it: hole empty, but in fairly good shape. Guess there's a group here after all!

23 May 1700. Bird in hole here! Checked it: 3 fresh eggs!

29 May 1710. Still 3 eggs. Bird in hole.

4 June 1345. 2 babies, ~3 do. Left Skip to watch.

5 June Skip saw ♂1608 (from 1500) and a ♀: "Red/DBlue".

There are a couple of candidates for her but we'll need another

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Melanerpes formicivorus

School Hill West HNHR

(5 June) watch to clinch it.

10 June 1645. Skip's best watches here have still produced a band combination for the ♀ that is not clearly attributable to anyone (♀ Red/DB/we ♂ M / Wh-DB). Hence I'm now going to go and catch here in order to confirm who the heck she is.

~~The ♂ here is certainly~~

1800. ♂ is ♂ ~~[illegible]~~ Lg-Red?/M #1608 from 1500 (we knew this).

1830. Line messed up. All for today.

11 June 900. Back again.

1130. Birds are here, babies are squealing, but noone is feeding.

12 June 1830. A brief attempt to nab the ♀ this evening.

1915. No luck.

13 June 815. Ant again.

930. Got her! As I kind of suspected, she's ♀1374.

945. And the babies:

① LBlue 1882	② 1883
38.8 (19)	23.0 (15)

18 June *Group Update*

Gone are

♂530 ♀1687. Here in May '89, gone by winter (Nov.) at least → D.A. 0 August ± 3 month.

New this spring are

♂1608. Moved from 1500 ~ 22 April ± 1 wk.

♀1374. Returned ~ 22 April.

23 June 1000. Nest empty; swarming with ants but no dead babies inside or anything.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Arf too HNHR

4 June 1715. Bird in one of the old holes in the blue oak: 8 eggs, incubated!

11 June 1400. 6 babies, young, plus 2 unhatched (infertile) eggs.
Weights: ① 12.8 g ② 11.0 g ③ 8.6 g ④ 5.2 g
⑤ 6.4 g ⑥ 4.4 g
Not more than 2 do.

16 June 1400. 4 babies left, with 1 very nearly gone, so much so that I don't think I can even get blood from it so I didn't try.

2 July 1500. Banded the 3 babies here, and set up for a nocturnal ambush of the ♂.

3 July 400. ♂ not home. However, there were 3 birds roosting in the lower hole, of whom I got 2: #1793 & 1794. Better than nothing, at least.

1989
1990

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak

HNHB

23 April 1545. Saw ♂ R-W/W-R #1006 sitting at the hole in the Black Oak up toward Bianca.

2 August 900. There are acorns remaining in the granary here.
As for capacity, my guess is that it's probably down some from the old days, since the horizontal limb in the central area which used to hold so many has long since fallen. This may have been made up in part by new holes, but I doubt it's been replaced entirely.

1990

18 January 1615. Counted stores: Central area: 1462
Site area: tree 1: 1356
(with roost hole) → " " tree 2: 940
} 3758.

As the central area storage limbs continue to deteriorate, the birds have begun to go whole-hog into drilling holes in the 2 main site area trees. In particular, virtually all the holes in this area used to be in dead limbs, but in both trees they have begun to seriously drill holes in the bark of the major limbs. This area is well on its way to being a major storage facility. In any case, everything is fairly full, and I'd put current capacity at around 4000. (Note that I certainly missed these new limbs when I looked around last August (above).

2 April 1115. Lots of stores; no birds in any holes.

13 April 1500. Birds flushing from everywhere when I arrived here; ♂ in the knot hole in the PO tree.
1505. ♂ still looking out of the hole.

15 April 1550. Noone anywhere here this time.

Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak — HNHR

25 April 1215. Bird in last year's nest hole (unknown to me until Stanback mentioned it to me this morning). 4 eggs - 3 opaque and 1 infertile.

29 April Stanback checked: babies hatched today.

30 April 1500. Set up a bobber.

3 May 1300. Going for a bird.

1325. Got both ♂426 and ♀1190 at the same time! Quitting for now.

4 May 737. Set up for ♂744 (or the helpers).

915. Birds all over, but not much feeding. ♀1190 came, but that was about it. Going to bleed the babies (#1800-1801).

6 May 1230. Bird in hole.

12 May 1435. Set up for ♂744. Seen feeding: ♂426, ♀1190

1600. Got him! ♂744!

14 May See Al notes concerning changes to ♀1408's record, who still exists and is up at Al.

19 May 1530. With confirmed reports of a ♀NOBA feeding here(!), I'm back to see if by some stretch of luck I can nab her at the nest.

1615 Got her! Now ♀1809.

Mark filled me in on this bird. Apparently she's from a missed summer nest last year, as he saw an unbanded juvenile up here once late last summer, after which a ♀NOBA had been seen a couple of times irregularly through the winter. With luck, at least, she's the only NOBA here!

21 May 1445. Banded the 2 babies here (#1800-1801)

2 June 1545. Plenty of acorns still stored here; noone in any holes, though.

18 June *Group Update*

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak Nest Record — HNHR

25 April 1215		Bird in hole. 4 eggs: 3 opaque and near hatching; 1 translucent and probably infertile
29 April 1100 (MTS)		Hatched today: 3 babies, 1 unhatched eggs.
3 May 1340		2 babies, 1 unhatched egg left
4 May 930		Banded, bled the 2 babies
	①(1800) DBlue	②(1801)
4 May 930	22.1	19.5
21 May 1445	85.1 (80)	83.0 (69)
	Cul: 21.4	Culmen: 21.0
	R-Or(N) / 962-23081	Wh-LG / LG
	DB / R-O(N)	LP / 962-23082

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Black Oak HNHR

(18 June) No longer here, apparently, are

91703. Last seen 29 Oct '89, gone by 2 Dec. → D.A. 15 Nov ± 2 wks.

91704, ♂1494, 61632. Last seen 26 Feb, gone by breeding ~1 April

→ D.A. 15 March ± 2 wks.

21 October ♂1494 is back, returned ~1 Sept. (±1 month)

1989
1990

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

SOBO HNHP

23 April 1600. Searched around, but saw no hint of a nest. Birds do have lots of acorns, however.

24 May Watched again today (and yesterday evening). Still no sign - even though I've found a pretty good place to watch from. I did see ① ♂ Red / M # 1039.

2 August 915. Plenty of stored acorns still here in the granary.

1990

15 April 1600. Bunches of stored acorns still here. Watching for a bit. On second look - many of those "acorns" appear to be eaten-out shells; there may not be nearly as many stores left here as I first thought.
1620. Nobody showing up. Leaving after a quick look around.

6 May 1230. Put up a brand new artificial nest hole in the granary here with the hope that it might lure this group back into the realm of the plausible again.

2 June 1540. Still some acorns stored here, but, ~~of~~ alas, no sign of a nest, at least in any of the places I know of to look.

7 June 930. Searched for a nest here, finding a couple of likely holes in a maple over to the right of the granary. Otherwise, however, the birds were way off to the left of the granary below Black Oak in an area where I could find nothing.

3 July Skip has censused here recently, seeing no babies. He's also seen ♂736, ♂1039, plus ♀1410 – a female we cavalierly eradicated last year – and has not seen the ♀NOBA. Hence, I'll resurrect ♀1410, who has probably been here all along (? no – she was not seen last winter, so instead I'll have her returning here) and (optimistically) will delete ♀NOBA (as of ~~02~~ ~ 26 April ± 2 mo).

1989 Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1 HNHR

1 June 1830. Came by and checked the new hole in the Black Oak only to see an old baby peeking out at me. Yikes. Zipped down and got Stanback. We returned and banded the 4 babies here, returning them after dark. A close call!

6 June 1300. The first thing to note here is that the above nest appears to have been LA2's, not A1's. We do not have this confirmed yet, but it seems likely based on my observations at LA2 yesterday and Stanback's observations. In any case, I'm here to watch for a bit.

1305. ① ♀ M/Blk-LP / LP-DG/LP-DG #1004. ② ♀ DB-Yel(N)/M #1212 subordinate to ♀1004.

③ ♀ M #1631

1330. ④ ♂ LG/Wh #1026. ⑤ ♀ R R-Blk/M #1493. ⑥ ♂ M/Or- #1562.

1345. ♀1004 just pecked the shit out of ♀1212 & ♀1631.

1400. ⑦ ♂ Red-Yel/Red #1340. ⑧ ♂ DG/DB #1027

1430. Quitting for now. Note that: ① Most of the birds are here, ② the babies well banded on the 1st are not here; certainly they belong to LA2 after all ③ no nest is obvious, although ~~son~~ I saw some odd flights which could have been related to a nest.

26 June 1530. Climbed and checked the granary tree hole here, which is in good shape but empty. Birds have been in this hole a bunch lately; I think they're just egg-tossing (and, with 4 ♀♀, may never stop).

2 August 1030. Lots of stored acorns remaining here.

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold I HNHR

11 January 1000. Counted stores: 3907. Tree is pretty full (with chrysolepis acorns, methinks); I'd put capacity at ~4200.

2 April 745. Here to look at mate guarding as best I can. Plenty of stores still here.

757. ♀? Blk-Wh(n)/M #1340.

815. A follow: ♀ Blk-Wh(n)/M #1212 flew into granary followed by ♂ M/L? #1026.

930. ♂ Or-LG/Or.? intruder? No- probably ♂1340.

950. Not too protective, I fear. I can't even be sure that the 2nd ♀ is still here. Leaving.

27 April 1055. Watching for a short spell.

1100. ① ♀ Blk-Wh(n)/M #1212. ② ♂ Or/Red #1340. ③ ♂ Yel/M #1563.

1115. They're flying back and forth into the forest heading toward Big Tree, almost as if they're feeding young back there....

1125. ④ ♀ Or/DG? ?? ⑤ ♂ DG/DB #1027.
♀1631??

1135. Going to check over there.

29 April Mark found nest in main tree! 5 babies, ~5 days old; he put bands on them.

30 April 1600 Set up to ambush birds at the nest.

1700. Caught ♀1212; bled. That's all for now!

3 May 900. Set up and ready for the ♂♂.

927. Got ♂1027!

957. Back to try for a 2nd bird.

1015. Got ♂1026. Note that his bands do not look like what's on the fieldlist. No! This bird is ♂1222 from UA2! Presumably he's been being mistaken for ♂1026 for some time, or maybe both are here?? Heavens! Time to look through the records!

1990 Walter D Koenig

Est. LED ~ 13 April

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1 Nest Record

HNHR

3 May 1100

5 babies bled (previously found by MTS on 29 April)

	#1795 ① LP	#1796 ② LGreenR	#1797 ③ DBlue	④ Blk (1798)	⑤ 1799
3 May 1100	45.4	43.0	38.8	37.4	16.9
17 May 1830	89.6 (94)	85.3 (90)	83.4 (89)	80.3 (85)	70.5 (63)

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1 HNHR

(3 May) After this I took the 5 babies down and bled them; see nest record for details. They are now #1795-1799.

4 May 1020. Trying again for a bit, looking especially for the mysterious ♂1026.

1110. Got ♂1340! Only the mysterious ♂1026 left.

5 May 720-1020. Watched here, looking for ♂1026. Saw ♂1027, ♀1212, and that's about it. I'd say these birds need a few days to recover.

6 May See back for consideration of the ♂1026 problem.

10 May Steve claims to have seen ♂1026 feed "several times", but since he doesn't remember having seen ♂1222 I'm not sure I believe him. In any case, I'm here at 1550 to try one more time for him.

1615. He's definitely here: ♂ M/LB-LG # 1026 at hole - didn't go in!

1718. ♀ Or/Mv-DB(N) ?? M/ ?? Who is this? Legs mixed up?

1725. Leaving. Head hurts!

11 May 1500. Back to try one more time.

1725. ♂ Yel/M # 1563 fed. 1734. ♀ 1212 fed

1804. Mystery ♀ again: ♀ Or/DB-Mv(n)

1810. ♂1026 fed but didn't go in the hole!

1830. Giving up.

12 May 1635. And again, going for either ♂1026 or the mystery ♀.

Seen feeding: ♀1212,

1717. Got ♂1026!! No! Turns out to be ♂1563! I goofed! Oh well. Wasn't really any excuse for that!

1745. Back again.

1830. That's all.

♂1026/♂1222 6 May

Donna saw "♂ M/Y-LB" and "♂ M/LP? LB/W" here in late 1989 and recorded a "♂ M/LP LG" here in Jan. 1990; meanwhile, see saw "♂ M/DB Mv/wh" at UA2 on Oct. 30 1989. Hence, it would appear that ♂1026 was definitely at A1 and ♂1222 at UA2 at least through about January 1990.

Mike saw "♂ M/DB?" at UA2 on 28 Feb and "♂ M LG/Y" at A1 on 24 Feb; this would support the retention of the status quo through Feb. 1990.

Subsequently there is only my watch on 2 April when all I saw was "♂ M/L?", who clearly could have been either ♂1222 or ♂1026

Conclusion: ♂1222 moved to A1 15 March ± 2 weeks
♂1026 status not clear; needs to be seen at A1!

Melanerpes formicivorus

Arnold 1 HNHR

13 May 1050. Set up to do a nestwatch, incidently shooting for ♂1026 or the mystery ♀.

1310. Caught the mystery ♀, who is still a mystery (ie. not on the field list) even with her bands in the hand.

1330. Back to give a go for ♂1026.

1600. Nobody's feeding, and it would seem as though I have to give up.

1740. Mystery ♀ is: ♀1408, a 1987 Black Oak baby! See back for synopsis....

Group Update Gone, apparently, by April 1990 (my watch).

♀1631. Last seen by Donna on 8 Dec '89 (with an injured foot). Was recorded by Mike on 24 Feb '90 (seen reasonably well!) Hence - D.A. 15 March ± 2 wks

♀1408. Apparently moved here, most likely with the other 2 ♀♀ in March 1989. She was recorded as having disappeared from Black Oak in Dec '87, but(!) was seen by Jane Kidd there on 26 July '88, and again (maybe) on 16 Aug. '88, and yet again on 13 Sept. '88. In short, she was missed by Connie early in '88 (maybe out foraying?) but basically appears to have been at Black Oak until the move to A1 in March '89.

See back of this page

17 May Ambushed the nest this evening after banding the 5 babies and caught ♂1026!!! Whoopee!!

2 June 1445. Bird at the traditional nest hole - a 2nd nest maybe??

1510. Well, maybe not, but lots of acorns left here.

23 June 1445. 2 birds at a hole high in the skinny V0 by the road. This, I think, is a 2nd nest, most unfortunately.

Saga of the 2nd ♀ (=3rd ♀!)

This is prompted by the discovery of ♀1408 feeding at the A1 nest, while no sign of ♀1631 appears forthcoming. The first problem is that the bands of the 2 birds are similar (in pattern at least), the second that ♀1408, a Black Oak nestling from 1987, was recorded as a ♂ prior to "his" disappearance from that group in late Dec. 1987. [Turns out that Connie recorded her as a ♀; someone screwed up putting this info into the computer!]

would that be me? MTS

Current version of ♀1631's history: Born at Black Oak in 1988, moved to A1 in March 1989, along with ♀1212.

Current version of ♀1408's history: Born at Black Oak in 1987, disappeared in Dec. 1987 ± 1 month.

Current version of ♀1212's history: Born at Black Oak in 1986, moved to SOBO, returned to Black Oak, eventually moving to A1 in March 1989.

Observational record: These ♀♀ apparently moved to A1 in a Power Struggle in March 1989; I need to look at Stanback's notes for this. They didn't nest in 1989 and I doubt we ever had a very good census. On 2 Nov '89 Donna saw a "♀ Or/Mo" who she recorded as ♀1631 but was more likely ♀1408. However! On 8 Dec '89 she saw a "♀ R-O(n)/M" with an injured left foot: apparently ♀1631 after all. On 11 Jan '90 she again saw ♀1408 (recorded as "♀ M/Or-" and "♀ BP/" without an injured foot). Hence! It would appear as though all 3 ♀♀ were here Nov '89 - Jan 90 at least.

1989
1990

Walter D Koenig

Melanerpes formicivorus

Big Tree — HNHR

13 June — ♂1234 over at LA2. See LA2 notes. He was eating an acorn in the granary.

20 June — While trying to see LA2 birds in the Top Tree I seem to have come across j1715 from here trying to beg off one of the LA2 ♂♂. See my LA2 notes.

25 June — See LA2 notes. ♂1234 over at LA2 regularly; I think he's back there. Also I saw j1716 in the Top Tree!

26 June — 1730. Saw ① j R-W(n) 1717, ② ♀ Wh-Blk/M #1565, and ③ ♀? Yel/Blk #1319?

1990

11 January — 1015. Found no sign of any stored acorns in the nest tree, where there are a few holes at least. My guess is that the group here is gone, at least for the winter. (I did look around some, and found no sign of stores elsewhere.)

2 April — 1015. No birds in evidence here.

5 April — 1055. ♀ here along with some chasing.

22 April — ♂1234 looking at ~~hop~~ home over at LA2; perhaps he has moved back there?

27 April — 1145. 2 birds, a ♂ and ♀ M/(n) #1319 in the nest tree. This group apparently lives after all!

23 May — Indeed they do: flushed a bird from ~~the~~ last year's nest hole - young babies calling inside!

24 May — 1515. Watching. 1545. ♀ M/~~G~~-W(n) #1319.
1600. Got to quit. Checked nest: 3 babies; biggest weighs 30g (~6 do)

2 June — 1605. Watching; trying for ♀1319 or (by any chance) a ♂.
1720. Quitting. Going to bleed the kids.
1730. Still 3 babies:

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Melanerpes formicivorus

	Big Tree	1859 ① LPink	1860 ② DGreen	③ 1861	HNHR
(2 June)		45.8 (27)	36.4 (25)	25.8 (20)	

4 June 1500. Watching. Waiting.
1700. Zilch. Leaving things up for a roost ambush, so we can at least find out who the ♂ here is (presumably).

5 June 500. Ambushed the nest this morning, nabbing not one but 2 ♂♂: 61234 and ♂1116: both LAZ birds! (The latter still on the fieldlist at LAZ, the former seen only there recently; both, I believe, feeding at LAZ not at Big Tree!)
905. Back to try and nab the ♀.
1028. ♀1319 fed! But didn't go in the hole!
1045. Leaving.

7 June 800. Babies dead in the nest. Looks like my first (?) casualty from a night ambush; guess they were just a bit too young. On the other hand, it's not like they had a lot of help being fed. Rats.

18 June *Group Update*
♂1116. Was at LAZ in late February, not seen there on 22 April (for whatever that's worth), so we'll say he moved (to Big Tree) ~ 20 March ± 1 month.
61234 has dual citizenship; he's at LAZ feeding, etc., but was roosting here with ♂1116.

Group Abandoned Winter 1990-91!
61234 returned to LAZ.

1989
1990

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Melanerpes formicivorus

Keep Out

HNHR

2 August 1020. Lots of stored acorns still here. Although I didn't feel like counting, a rough guess is that they have 2500-3000 acorns left and that capacity here (not including the tree ½-way up to Arnold Schwarz) is on the order of ~~4000~~. 5000 (including the burned Live Oak).

1990

11 January 1100. Counted stores here:

Main tree:	2723	3770
Burned LO:	545	
Misc branches:	502	

This includes several small branches in the storage area near the fence but not the limbs ½-way up toward Arnold Schwarz, which are empty in any case. I'd put capacity here, (minus that upper tree) at around 4500.
(which is probably Arnold Schwatzenegger's)

2 April 1020. Lots of stored acorns still here.
1040. ♀Blk/Or #1668 flycatching just over the fence.

22 April 1140. ♀Blk-Or/Or-Blk ?? Presumably ♀1668, somewhat perverted.

29 April 1645. Birds in last year's nest hole in dead live oak. It's very cool this evening, so this may not mean much, but I'd check.

3 May 1130. Watching for a few minutes, birds - very possibly male-guarding - flew to last year's nest hole, so I checked it: empty but in good shape.

10 May 1510. Yes: last year's hole, 4 fresh eggs.

15 May 1500. Checked the nest: 4 eggs.

2 June 1500. Lots of stored acorns remaining here

11 June 1430. Banded the 4 babies.

18 June *Group update*

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HNHR

Keep Out Nest Record

10 May 1510 — 4 eggs, fresh

15 May 1540 — 4 eggs.

26 May 1600 — Bled the 4 babies

	1835 ① Wh	1836 ② Or	1837 ③ LB	④ 1838
26 May 1600	39.9	41.3	37.7	20.3
11 June 1430	87.9 (95)	82.1 (96)	76.3 (95)	58.3 (80)
Culmen	21.1	22.2	22.8	17.9
6th 1° (tail)	70 (43)	72 (46)	70 (47)	54 (34)

Bands:			
1835	Orange / Orange		Lots of T.S. 2nd/1°: Small
	962-23129 / Orange-Green ~~Orange~~		
1836	Black / DBlue		Lots of T.S. 2nd/1° small
	White ~~Orange~~ / 962-23130		
1837	Black-BPink(n) / 962-23131		Lots of T.S 2°/1° small (L) Big? (R)
	Black-BPink(n) / Black		
1838	962-23132 / LBlue-Red		Lots of T.S. 2nd/1° small
	LBlue ~~Black~~ / LBlue-Red		

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Keep Out HNHR

(18 June) ♀1670. last seen 24 Feb, gone by breeding ~15 April
→ D.A. 20 March ± 1 month.

Note: ♀1669 is probably gone as well. So far there's only one sighting at the nest (Tami on 30 May) which I have to be doubtful of. I'll leave her on for now, however.

11 November ♀1669. D.A. → 20 March ± 1 month. I'm going to assume Tami mis-ID'd this bird.

1989
1990

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Arnold Schwarzenegger — HNHR

28 May — 1845. Set up for eventual nest ambushing here. Only 1 baby in nest!

1 June — 1545 Set up and waiting
1615. Got the ♀! Now #1753.
1815. Leaving for now. No other feeders!

2 June — 950. Set up again. Trying for ♂624.
1030. ♂624 and ♀1753 fed, but didn't go inside the hole. I may have to do a night ambush for the ♂ after all.
1210. Quitting. A night ambush it is.

3 June — 445. No problem. Got up at 300, pulled the string about 330 or so, got ♂624, bled him and returned him to the hole by 410.

1990

11 January — 1100. No sign of any stores (or birds) here, despite some reasonable storage limbs: 2 in the granary, the tree ½-way down toward Keep Out, and one other limb up toward the stock pond. Combined, I'd guess capacity here ~~at~~ on the order of 1500 acorns!

2 April — 1020. No birds in evidence.

22 April — 1200. Several birds in the tree here; possibly Keep Out or even Lambert birds?
♀1753 down at LA2; see LA2 notes.

15 May — No activity here for some time.

2 June — Still no activity around here.

1989
1990

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Lambert — HNHR

6 July — 1000. 4 birds here; 1 seen as ♀ R-W(N)/Or presumably 71378.

1990

11 January — 1115. Counted stores:

Hastings VO:	821
Hast. Fallen tree:	1202
Hast Lower Roost Tree:	434
Lamb. Fallen Tree:	0
	2457.

There's no sign that these birds are using the Lambert Fallen Tree anymore; one large limb fell off it and most of it is just too close to the ground, I guess. In any case, without it, I'd put capacity at about 3000.

2 April — 1025. No sign of birds, but lots of stores still here.
1034. Saw a bird over by The New Trash area (in Schwarzenegger vicinity): ♂ LP/R M/DG-LG #1491.

25 April — 1010. Noone in any holes. Up just beyond the storage area is ♂ M/ #1491 (probably) again.

29 April — 1700. Several birds flushed from here down toward the fenceline (in direction of Big Tree).

3 May — 1245. Noone in any of the known holes.

15 May — 1445. Still no sign of anyone in any holes.

23 May — Flushed birds from here, but still couldn't find any sign of a nest.

2 June — 1500. Stores are here, but still no sign of a nest.

23 June — 1900. 3 birds in lower VO granary, where Skip has seen birds in holes. I checked them, however, and all are connected and in varying degrees of decay; all in all, not good candidates for a nest. So what's going on here?

1989
1990

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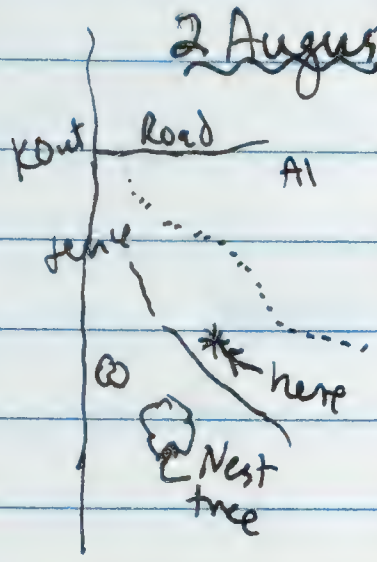
Fanny Arnold — HNHR

2 April — 1315. Several birds in the trees over by A1 turn out to belong from here: ♂ Blk/M LB/LP-LB #1023 and ♂ M/Red-Yel #835.

2 August — 1015. Storage facilities are sort of spread out here, but my guess is that capacity is on the order of 4000. This includes ~2500 in the (new)(dead) granary they built from scratch over on the far side of the ravine from the fenceline* which does, by the way, have quite a few acorns still stored in it.



1990

11 January — 1200. The group here has apparently entirely abandoned ~~these~~ their old storage limbs over by the fenceline, which are all empty, and has switched entirely to the new granary across the ravine, where I counted 2050 acorns. I'd put capacity here at 2500 (for this tree); it's not clear whether to include those old holes or not anymore! Perhaps the entire capacity here should be put at about 3000.

2 April — 1045. Still some acorns here.

13 April — 1550. Some garricks and chasing here. Watching the granary. ① ♀NOBA. ② ♂ DG/M LB/Wh-LB #1023. ③ ♂ M/Or-Yel Wh-Red/DK #835. ④ ♀ M/Red ? (possibly ♀1749 from LA2?). With luck this may be the bird winning.

? — 1611. ④ ♀ Wh-Or/Blk #? (seen well).

1630 ⑤ ? M/DB DB-Wh(n)/Red #1699. ⑥ ♀ LB?/Red ??

Given that there's been no ♀ in this group for awhile, this activity certainly makes sense as a ♀ replacement.

1635. ~~1625~~. Leaving. Not sure who everyone is here, but there's little doubt as to what's going on.

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Fanny Arnold HNHR

15 April 1645. Things pretty quiet here; everything must just about be over. ① ♂ LB/Wh #1023.

1655. ② ♂ DB-Wh/LA #1527 sapsucking (great sap tree here, by the way). ③ ♂ M/DK-DK #1699 also sapsucking.

1700. So who won the power struggle and moved in here??

22 April 1105. ♀ M/ ? With luck, this is ♀1749 from LA2.

1112. Looks good: ♀ M/Red.

1125. ♂ DB?/M #1023

1130. Yes! It's ♀ Blk/Blk-Wh(n) #1749 from LA2, who has presumably moved in here to finally fill the ♀ vacancy. She's certainly all over here at the moment.

25 April 1030. Still some activity here. ♀ M/Red LB-R/Red #1753 (an Arnold Schwarz bird, seen 22 April at LA2) here garricking in the granary.

1035. Chased by ♂ Wh-Or/Blk #835. Also ♀ /Blk-Wh(n) #1749 (I think)

1045. ♀NOBA over in the nest area drilling like crazy. Things are not over yet.

1050. I may be in luck. ♀ Blk/ #1749 in nest tree with a ♂. Looks like she's still in charge at the moment, at least.

27 April 955. And still more activity here.

① ♂ DB-Wh/LA #1527 in granary with ② ♀NOBA! (busy drumming) Rats! Does this mean ♀1749 isn't going to make it after all?

③ ♂ LB/Wh-LB #1023. There seem to currently be 2 ♀NOBAs here independently fighting it out.

1005. No sign of ♀1749, although she could be over by the nest trees. I guess this isn't over yet.

29 April 1710. Bird(s) in hole in Big Valley Oak nest tree. Not likely to be a nest yet, but it's a likely hole to keep an eye on.

Melanerpes formicivorus

~~From~~: Fanny Arnold HNHR

24 May 1445. Bird flushed from one of the 2 old nest holes in the big Valley Oak facing Hastings: checked them both, finding them in good shape, but empty. Should be soon here, however!

7 June Some stores remaining here, but I've seen noone in those holes since 24 May.

15 June 1415. Watching for a bit.

1425. ♂ Wk-Red/ #835,

1445. Now in the granary, ♂ M/B-W(N) # 1527.

1505. ♂♂ are here, but no sign of a ♀. This could explain their hesitence to nest this spring. Going for now.

3 July Skip has seen ♀1749 here again at last, prompting me to finally move her:

♀1749. Moved here (from LA2) ~20 April (see my notes)

11 November *Group update*

♀1371. Moved here from LA2, joining ♀1749. ~~[illegible]~~ First seen here in October after leaving LA2 in late April.

→ Moved here ~1 September.

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1990

Melanerpes formicivorus

Upper Arnold 2 HNHR

5 May 1600. Set up; trying to get ♀632 at the nest.
1630. ♀ here along with 2 ♂♂. 1 is ♂ Mauve/white
1645. Got her!

2 August 1000. Counted stores: Nest tree: 300
Main (dead) granary: 2500 } 2800.
These trees are pretty full; I'd guess at least 50% full.
Hence, my estimate for capacity is ~~4000~~ ≈ 5000.

1990

18 January 1500. Counted stores here: Nest tree: 1005
Main granary: 3222
Misc: 190 } 4417.
As usual, the dead granary poses some challenging counting problems, but in any case the trees are pretty full and 5000 is still a reasonable estimate for capacity here.

2 April 1050. Lots of acorns still here, of course, but noone in any holes.

15 April 1640. ♂ in new hole in ~~[illegible]~~ nest-tree granary. Should be easy to climb and open.
1740. Opened the hole, which the birds have obviously been building. It will be nice soon, but is not quite ready yet.

25 April 1100. Noone in any holes. Checked the new hole, which doesn't look much different from when I opened it on the 15th.

29 April 1705. Noone in any holes here. I'm beginning to be concerned; it's not unlikely that they have something going on the sly here; I better watch when I get the chance.

3 May ♂1222 caught feeding nestlings at A1!
1215. Checked over here, flushing a bird from a new hole in the

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Upper Arnold 2 HNHR

(3 May) Blue Oak nest tree (not used for several years). I opened it, finding a hatchling along with 4 eggs (1 infertile). Hence, I think we can assume a clutch of 5 and an est. hED of ~22 April.

6 May See Al notes for discussion of ♂1222, who I'm moving to Al as of 15 March (±2 wks).

11 May 1305. Set up to catch ♂681, from whom I only have tried blood.
1415. Finally got him. Note: his R Yellow band was missing entirely; L Yellow very worn. I replaced both!
1420. Still 4 babies!

15 May Duane watched here, seeing only 1 feeding (by ♀1721; at least this is useful). Will replace the blind!
All 4 babies doing fine at 1700; blind replaced with one down the hill.

26 May 1500. Banded and (re)bled the 4 babies.

2 June Lots of stores remaining here.

18 June *Group Update*
♀1718. Last seen 8 Dec '89, gone by 28 Feb → D.A. 18 Jan ± 1 month
♂1222. Feeding at Al on 3 May, but back here by 18 May
→ Returned 5 May ~~A~~ week. Not seen at Al since I caught him on 3 May.

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Upper Arnold 2 Nest Record HNHR

3 May ~~1800~~ 1215	Found & opened nest: 1 hatchling, 3 fertile eggs, & 1 infertile egg (= clutch of 5)
5 May 1100	4 babies (MTS weighed). 2 very small (runts), so I bled them as #1802 & 1803 (neither expected to survive) These hatched 3-5 May (MTS)
11 May 1420	All 4 babies still alive!
15 May 1700	" " " " " !
26 May 1500	Banded & bled the 4 babies

	(1) 1833	(2) 1834	(3) 1802	(4) 1803
26 May 1500	84.5 (82)	76.9 (75)	57.8 (47)	40.8 (42)

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Lower Arnold 2 HNHP

5 June 1300. Confusion here. Did we miss a nest? I don't think so, but there are babies in the near vicinity (Bianca babies? A1's?) that send shivers down my spine. In any case, I'm hanging out here just to try and figure out what's up. These birds have lots of stored acorns left, so it's tempting to expect a nest, even if it would be more incest.

1400. Among other things serving to confuse the issue here is that at least 1 ♂ is flying to the granary, eating acorns, taking some acorn bits, and then flying up to the top tree where he's apparently feeding the A1 fledglings. Are some of the A1 breeders from here or something? Noone seems interested in harrassing ~~them~~ him or anything.

1405. This time a ♀ flew up to the Top Tree.

Not sure what's up here, but I'm a little more confident that we aren't missing a blatantly obvious nest. We need to keep an eye on this group, however!

6 June The answer would appear to be that the "A1" nest we banded on 1 June actually belongs to this group! See my A1 notes. Note that this was presumably an incestuous mating.

13 June 1400. Here to watch for a spell.

1425. 1 of the babies j Red/LB or M/LB/ue #1750. In the granary: ♂ DB-Wh/Mr-Wh #611.

1440. In granary: ♂ R-W(n)/LB #1234 from Big Tree (!)

1515. #1234 in granary again with j M/LBlue. A ♀Ad and 1 other baby (?) are up in the Top tree.

1600. ♂ R-W(n) M/LB #1612 (?) in Top Tree. Along with that same juv again.

20 June 1620. Watching Top Tree. 1 baby here (I'd seen 2 in

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LA2 HNHR

(20 June) LA2 granary earlier). j LB-Yel/Blk-? #1715 from Big Tree (!). In Top Tree with ♂ LG/LB-LP?

1700. ♂ Red #1612? feeding a baby. Now jM/Dull harrassing ♂ DB/Yel-DB LG/LB-Yel #1116! This is an old LA2 nestling last seen Dec. '87!

1715. 2 babies now here. jDG/M (1715 again?) What's he doing here??

Maybe this bird (#1116) is actually at Big Tree??

1730. Leaving. What's up here? Who are the ♀♀ at LA2? The return of ♂1116 would suggest the possibility of a ♀ turnover? Also, I still haven't gotten good looks at the LA2 babies except for #1750. Better try again!

25 June 1430. Watching. ① j Red/DB-Or #1716 from Big Tree (I'm watching the Top Tree).

1445. Moving to watch LA2 tree. ① j M/Or #1749 being fed by ② ♂ M' 611? (Seen better later on) Also a 2nd juv and ④ ♂ Or/DB-Wh(N) 1234 (Big Tree).

1455. ③ j Red/Wh-Or LB #1750 begging from ♂1234 (and mostly getting beaten up).

1515. Finally a ♀, alone in the granary: ⑤ ♀ Wh/M Blk. #1611.

1530. ♂1234 still here, with others, in the LA2 tree.

1540. ⑥ ♀ Wh-/Red #1371; the Red seen well. In granary. Not 1611.

1545. Leaving. ♀♀ are still here. ♂1234 would appear to be here, while ♂1612 has probably left. My guess is that ♂1116 is actually over at Big Tree rather than here, but this needs confirmation.

26 June Watching the Bluebird nest; saw ♂ DB-Wh/LG-Wh #611. ② j Red/LB-Or #1750. ③ j M/Or #1749. ④ ♀ LP/M Blk-Or/- #1611.

1 July 1030. j1750 seen in granary.

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LA2 HNHR

14 July I've decided to rewrite history here. The problem is with ♀1371, who we've been assuming came from a (missed) nest late in 1986, and thus is ♂611's daughter. In fact, she was not banded as a baby; rather, Katy saw an ub ♀ feed at the nest here on 17 May 1986, at which time I figured we'd simply been missing a 3rd NOBA ♀. At this point I will revert to that opinion. This would mean that ♀1371 (the NOBA ♀ finally caught on 1 Oct '86) is not indigenous to LA2. My guess is that she's a younger sibling who moved here in 1986, but she could, of course, have been here earlier. (The return here of ♂1116, born in 1985, suggests she was not here then.)

(See back) The only serious problem with this scenario is the ub ♂ seen here fairly regularly between 18 Sept '86 and 11 Sept '87. The fact is, I have no idea who he is. Maybe he was from a missed nest (and I suppose I'll keep that as a possibility), although the group did fledge 5 babies in 1986 and my guess is that the 2nd nest resulted mainly out of our paranoia.

Changes include:

♀5253. Moved here 0 Oct '85 (note she was seen here on 9 Dec.). Present until 1 Oct '86, when I caught her and she became ♀1371.

No ♂♂ ever assumed breeding status (except ♂611, ♂782).

♂1116. Returned 0 Apr. 1989. Now a breeder.

2 August 945. Counted stores here: 2250 (all old). Capacity here is good. My estimates are: Maintree: 4500 (about ½ full)

	♀ NOBA	♂ NOBA
1985 9 Dec.	Seen	1986 18 Sept.
1986 17 May	Feb	1987 20 Apr
1 Oct	Caught → 1371	6 May
1987 21 June	Seen	21 June
5 Oct	Seen	11 Sept

1989
1990

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LA2 HNHR

(2 August) Other areas: 500 (few acorns at the moment)
Total ≈ 5000.

1990

18 January 1540. Counted stores: Main tree: 4280 } 5066
Other areas: 786

These birds have done an amazing job of recovering from the fire: the burned tree has holes densely packed in all sorts of places - all drilled since the fire. I'd put capacity at about 5300 - there aren't many unused holes at the moment.

2 April 1055. 2 birds in the "Top" tree flew back to LA2. I checked last year's hole in the Black Oak just past there, but the limb broke and the hole is gone.

Lots of acorns left here.

22 April 1000. Chasing! Some garricks! A power struggle?
① ♂ Or/DB-Wh(n) in granary. I take it back: this is like ♂ Red/DB-Wh(n) / BTK-Wh(n)/LB #1234 from Big Tree. He is pretty well ensconced in the main tree here.

② ♀ -LB/Red #1371 drumming next to ♂1234. Possibly 6-8 other birds here. Does this mean the end of ♂611??

③ ♀NOBA, drumming; now chased out.

Howdy Kow! ④ ♂ M/Dk-Dk #611 is here! ♂1234 must be a son....

This is perhaps merely an unprovoked uprising?

? ④ ♀ M/Red LB-Red/Red #1753 (Both seen well) in back area defending one of the trees. ③ 2nd ♀NOBA.

1100. Not sure what's up, but ♀1371 and ♂611 are definitely both here so there's no vacancy, at least. But, I saw no sign of ♂1116 or of either

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WA2 HNHR

(22 April) of the helpers still here in February.

♀1749 appears to have moved to Fanny Arnold; see their notes.

1400. The ♀ I saw here (♀ M/Red LB-Red/Red) is #1753, an Arnold Schwarz bird last seen early last fall or last summer.

25 April 1105. Still lots of activity here.

1110 ♀ MU-LB/ #1371. 2 ♀NOBAs here in the forest area.

1115. ♂ Or/Bk-Wh(n) #? Seen well, in granary (!) Ah: ♂1234.

1125. There must be 4-5 ♀NOBAs here causing the trouble. Several are garricking and drumming almost continuously.

1130. Don't know where the other ♂♂ are; none besides ♂1234 are conspicuous.

27 April 1020. Still some activity here.

1030. ! 2 ♀NOBAs here!! In granary with ♂1234. My goodness - have these 2 birds won and evicted ♀1371? And where are all the ♂♂ these days? (or ♂611 at least)?

1040. Leaving. Not clear what's all happened here. But the ♀NOBAs now seem to be in charge.

19 May Found 2 new holes yesterday in the burned area around toward WA2; bird in ~~hole~~ one of the holes today - no doubt incubating as I heard no noise from the hole yesterday.

21 May 1400. 5 eggs here, incubated.

24 May 1500. 5 hatchlings, 0-1 do.

5 June 1130. Set up to catch the new ♀NOBAs here.

1210. Got one! Now ♀1873.

1230. Now bleeding the babies:

① LBlue 1869	② White 1870	③ Orange 1871	④ 1872
55.9 (33)	50.9 (33)	46.9 (26)	38.2 (22)

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LA2 HNHR

(5 June) *Group Update*

♀1371. This bird appeared to me to still be here on 25 April but was apparently kicked out or died shortly thereafter (by 27 April in fact). Unless I mis-ID ♂ ♀1371 on 25 April of course).

→ D.A. (evicted?) 26 April ± 1 day

She's been replaced by 2 ♀♀ NOBAs, one of whom I banded today.

7 June 930. Going for NOBA ♀ #2.

1015. Got her! Now ♀1874

12 June 935. Going for ♂611. Seen feeding: ♀1873, ♀1874, ♂611

1048. Got him!

15 June 1530. Banded the 4 babies.

3 July *Group update*

♀1749. Moved to Fanny Arnold ~20 April 1990 (see Fanny Arn. notes).

2)

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LAZ Nest Record	HNHR
21 May 1400	5 eggs, incubated
24 May 1500	5 hatchlings, probably 1 do.

2 J1

1989
1990

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Bianca

HNHR

4 May 1445. Set up, trying to catch ♂1232 at the nest.
1715. Got him!

2 August 920. I would be surprised if the granary here, which is empty at the moment, held more than 2000 acorns at full capacity. Certainly no more than 2500.

1990

18 January 1400. Counted stores: "Main" granary: 610 } 1300.
Small VO near nest tree: 690

The "Main" granary has acorns but still seems underutilized to me - I'd guess it's only 60% or so full. Otherwise, they have really begun to go on some new limbs over in the main area, particularly in the small VO root tree up and inbetween the old VO & Blk Oak granaries (both defunct for some time). All in all, I'd put capacity at ~2000 (not including the area ½ way up toward LA2, which noone's used for some time now and is currently empty, as usual).

2 April 1110. The "main" granary looks pretty empty, but there are still some stores in the small VO near the nest tree.

13 April 1515. Watching.
1530. Birds around, but not in the main area.

15 April 1630. ♀ in last year's nest hole.
1800. Checked the hole: nice shape and ready to go, but empty.

2 June 1520. No stores remaining, lending some degree of reasonableness to ~~the~~ my continued failure to find a nest here.

23 June 1550. Several birds in the upper trees up toward LA2; one being chased. Saw ♂ R/M #1515 and ♂ M/Blk-La(?) Wh/R-Or(N) #1517.

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Bianca HNHR

(23 June) The latter very well. Also 1-2 other birds here. No sign of a nest or fledglings, however.